

Happy Holidays



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Monday, December 17, 2012



This Nov. 1, 2012 file photo shows former Nebraska Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel speaking in Omaha, Neb. He's a contrarian Republican moderate and a decorated Vietnam combat veteran.

Associated Press

Pentagon front-runner has strong Obama ties

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Sen. Chuck Hagel is a contrarian Republican moderate and decorated Vietnam combat veteran who is likely to support a more rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

As President Barack Obama's top candidate for defense secretary,

Continued on Page 4

WMDs



Supporters of gun control gather on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House in Washington, Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, during a vigil for the victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Ct., and to call on President Obama to pass strong gun control laws.

Associated Press

Senators want ban on assault weapons

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic lawmakers said Sunday that military-style assault weapons should

be banned and that a national commission should be established to examine mass shootings in the United States.

The proposals were among

the first to come from Congress in the wake of Friday's massacre at a school in Newtown, Connecticut. Gun rights activists remained largely quiet on the

issue, all but one declining to appear on the Sunday talk shows.

Continued on Page 3



KONG FUI SHOPPING CENTER

EASY ACCESS TO 1ST FLOOR & 2ND FLOOR
LOCATED WITHIN WALKING
DISTANCE OF THE HIGHRISE HOTELS

OPEN DAILY: 8 A.M. TO 10 P.M.
SUNDAY: 9 A.M. TO 8 P.M.



PALM BEACH 17-A | NOORD | TEL: 586-9888 FAX: 586-9886 • info@kongfui.com

Obama offers 'love, prayers of nation' to Newtown

MATT APUZZO
PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Connecticut (AP) — A mournful President Barack Obama said Sunday that the United States is failing to keep its children safe, pledging that change must come after an elementary-school massacre left 20 children dead.

"What choice do we have?" Obama said. "Are we really prepared to say that we're powerless in the face of such carnage, that the politics are too hard?" In a vigil for the fallen, in a moment of grief that spread around the world, Obama conceded that none of his words would match the sorrow. But he declared to the community of Newtown, site of the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history: "You are not alone."

For Obama, ending his fourth year in office, it was another sorrowful visit to another community in disbelief. It is the job of the president to be there, to listen and console, to offer help even when the only thing



President Barack Obama speaks during an interfaith vigil for the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012 at Newtown High School in Newtown, Conn.

Associated Press

within his grasp is a hug. The massacre of 26 children and adults at Sandy Hook Elementary on Friday elicited horror around the world, soul-searching in the United States, fresh political debate about gun control and questions about the incomprehensible — what drove the suspect to act. Privately, Obama told Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy that Friday was the most difficult day of his presiden-

cy. Authorities said Sunday that the gunman in the shooting rampage was carrying an arsenal of hundreds of rounds of especially deadly ammunition — enough to kill just about every student in the school if given enough time, raising the chilling possibility that the bloodbath could have been far worse.

Adam Lanza shot himself in the head just as he heard

police drawing near to the classroom where he was slaughtering helpless children, but he had more ammunition at the ready in the form of multiple, high-capacity clips each capable of holding 30 bullets.

The disclosure on Sunday sent shudders throughout this picturesque community in the northeastern U.S. as grieving families sought to comfort each other during church services devoted to impossible questions like that of a 6-year-old girl who asked her mother: "The little children, are they with the angels?"

With so much grieving left to do, many of Newtown's 27,000 people wondered whether life could ever return to normal. And as the workweek was set to begin, parents weighed whether to send their own children back to school.

Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy said the shooter decided to kill himself when he heard police closing in about 10 minutes into the attack.

"We surmise that it was during the second classroom episode that he heard responders coming and apparently at that, decided to take his own life," Malloy said on ABC television's "This Week."

Authorities said they found hundreds of unused bullets at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, which enrolled about 450 students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

"There was a lot of ammo, a lot of clips," said state police Lt. Paul Vance. "Certainly a lot of lives were potentially saved."

The chief medical examiner has said the ammunition was the type designed to break up inside a victim's body and inflict the maximum amount of damage,

tearing apart bone and tissue.

Newtown officials couldn't say whether Sandy Hook Elementary School would ever reopen. The school district was considering sending surviving students to an empty school in nearby Monroe. But for many parents, it was much too soon to contemplate resuming school-day routines.

"We're just now getting ready to talk to our son about who was killed," said Robert Licata, the father of a boy who was at the school during the shooting but escaped harm. "He's not even there yet."

Jim Agostine, superintendent of schools in nearby Monroe, said plans were being made for students from Sandy Hook to attend classes in his town this week. The road ahead for Newtown was clouded with grief.

"I feel like we have to get back to normal, but I don't know if there is normal anymore," said Kim Camputo, mother of two children, ages 5 and 10, who attend a different school. "I'll definitely be dropping them off and picking them up myself for a while."

Also Sunday, a Connecticut official said the gunman's 52-year-old mother, Nancy Lanza, was found dead in her pajamas in bed in the home they shared, shot four times in the head with a .22-caliber rifle. The killer then went to the school Friday morning with guns he took from his mother, got inside by breaking a window and began blasting his way through the building.

All the victims at the school were shot with the rifle, at least some of them up close, and all were apparently shot more than once, Chief Medical Examiner Dr. H. Wayne Carver said. □

Senators want ban on assault weapons

Continued from front

Meanwhile, Democrats vowed action and said it was time to hear from voters — not gun lobbyists — on how to prevent the next shooting.

The time for “saying that we can’t talk about the policy implications of tragedies like this is over,” said Rep. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, who won a Senate seat in the November elections.

President Barack Obama and Senate Democrats haven’t pushed for new gun control measures since taking power in the 2008 elections. Outspoken advocates for stricter laws, including Sen. Dianne Feinstein, say that’s because of the powerful sway of the National Rifle Association, the gun owners’ lobbying group.

But advocates also say the latest shooting is a tipping point that could change the dynamic of the debate dramatically. Feinstein said she will propose legislation next year that would ban big ammo clips, drums and strips of more than 10 bullets.

“It can be done,” she said Sunday of reviving a 10-year ban on assault weapons that expired in 2004.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Obama could use executive powers to enforce existing gun laws, as well as throw his weight behind legislation like Feinstein’s.

“It’s time for the president, I think, to stand up and lead and tell this country what we should do — not go to Congress and say, ‘What do you guys want to do?’” Bloomberg said.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, an independent former Democrat from Connecticut who is retiring, supports such a ban on assault weapons but said there should also be a national commission to scrutinize gun laws and loopholes, as well as the U.S. mental health system and the role that violent video games and movies might play in shootings. Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin said

he would support such a panel, adding that it was time for a “national discussion” that included school safety.

“This conversation has been dominated in Washington by — you know and I know — gun lobbies that have an agenda” Durbin said. “We need people, just ordinary Americans, to come together, and speak out, and to sit down and calmly reflect on how far we go.”

Congress has frequently turned to independent bipartisan commissions to try to solve America’s worst problems, including the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Iraq war and the failing economy. But ultimately, lawmakers are often reluctant to act on the recommendations of outsiders, especially if they think it will cost them support in their home states.

Still, Lieberman defended the idea of a national commission as the only way to ensure that the “heartbreak and anger” of the Connecticut shooting doesn’t dissipate over time and that other factors beyond gun control are considered.

“There are a lot of serious questions here about what is the impact of violence in the entertainment culture on everybody,” Lieberman said. “There is a vulnerable population out there and I’m afraid this young man was obviously one of them. How do we identify shooters before they shoot and make sure they get the mental health help that they need, and then what about gun control?”

Gun rights advocates appeared reluctant to make their case against tougher gun laws while Connecticut families and the nation were still in the earliest stages of grieving. David Gregory, the host of “Meet the Press,” said NBC invited all 31 “pro-gun” senators to appear on Sunday’s show, and all 31 declined. All eight Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee were unavailable or unwilling to appear on CBS’ “Face the Nation,”



In this March 7, 2012 file photo, gun owners and supporters participate in an Illinois Gun Owners Lobby Day rally at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield. Associated Press

host Bob Schieffer said.

Rep. Louie Gohmert, a Texas Republican, was the sole representative of gun rights’ activists on the various Sunday political talk shows. In an interview on “Fox News Sunday,” Gohmert defended the sale of assault weapons and said that the principal at Sandy Hook Elementary School, who authorities say died trying to overtake the shooter, should herself have been armed.

“I wish to God she had had an M-4 in her office, locked up so when she heard gunfire, she pulls it out and she didn’t have to lunge heroically with nothing in her hands. But she takes him (the shooter) out, takes his head off before he can kill those precious kids,” Gohmert said.

Gohmert also argued that violence is lower in cities with lax gun laws, and higher in cities with stricter laws. “The facts are that every time guns have been allowed — conceal-carry (gun laws) have been allowed — the crime rate has gone down,” Gohmert said.

Gun control advocates say that isn’t true. A study by the California-based Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence determined that seven of the 10 states with the strongest gun laws — including Connecticut, Massachusetts and California — are also among the 10 states with the lowest gun death rates. □

Mi Compromiso ta



Adwina Arends

Ganador di e Shoco "Lifetime Achievement Award" 2012.

Cumpliendo cu su Compromiso cu Aruba.



Ganador di e prestigioso 'Lifetime Achievement' di Shoco Awards 2012, Adwina Arends su pasion ta turismo y esaki ta bin door di su historia largo cu e tin cu nos isla Aruba. Fungiendo den diferente posicion Adwina ta conoce turismo di tur angulo y actualmente ta trahando na Aruba Tourism Authority como Corporate Operations Manager y ta consciente di e importancia di e relacion di Aruba cu su partnernan den e industria. Aruba Tourism Authority ta felicita Adwina pa e gran logro aki y alabes ta felicita tur nominadonan y ganadonan di e Shoco Awards 2012. Aruba Tourism Authority, cumpliendo cu nos compromiso. Kico ta bo compromiso cu Aruba?



Like nos riba Facebook na www.facebook.com/oficinaditurismo.

Explora Aruba su App na app.aruba.com

Pa e Pasco aki, ban yuda e ‘Toy Drive’ dunando nos bomberonan un man cu nan coleganan na New York.

Pentagon

Continued from front

Hagel has another credential important to the president: a personal relationship with Obama, forged when they both were in the Senate and strengthened during overseas trips they took together.

Hagel, 66, emerged last week as the front-runner for the Pentagon's top job, four years after leaving behind a Senate career in which he carved out a reputation as an independent thinker and blunt speaker. Wounded during the Vietnam War, Hagel backed the Iraq war, but later became a fierce and credible critic of the Bush administration's war policies, making routine trips to Iraq and Afghanistan. He opposed President George W. Bush's plan to send an additional 30,000 troops into Iraq — a move that has been credited with stabilizing the chaotic country — as "the most dangerous foreign policy blunder in this country since



This Dec. 3, 2012 file photo shows Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Vietnam, if it's carried out." While Hagel supported the Afghanistan war resolution, over time he has become more critical of the decade-plus conflict, with its complex nation-building effort.

Often seeing the Afghan war through the lens of his service in Vietnam, Hagel has declared that militaries are "built to fight and win wars, not bind together

failing nations." In a radio interview this year, he spoke broadly of the need for greater diplomacy as the appropriate path in Afghanistan, noting that "the American people want out" of the war.

If nominated — an announcement could come this week — and confirmed by the Senate, Hagel would succeed Defense Secretary Leon Pa-

Associated Press

netta. Panetta has made it clear he intends to leave early next year, but has not publicly discussed the timing of his departure. He took the Pentagon job in July 2011.

At the same time, Obama is considering one of Hagel's former Senate colleagues, Democrat John Kerry, for the job of secretary of state.

To political and defense insiders, Obama's preference for Hagel makes sense.

The former senator shares many of the same ideals of Obama's first Pentagon leader, Republican Robert Gates. When Obama became president in 2009, he asked Gates to remain as defense secretary, the only Cabinet holdover from the Bush administration. Both Hagel and Gates talk of the need for global answers to regional conflicts and an emphasis on so-called soft power, including economic and political aid, to bolster weak nations.

"A Hagel nomination signals an interest in, and a commitment to continuing a bipartisan approach to national security," said David Berseau, senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

He said that Hagel's two terms in the Senate, before he retired in 2009, spanned the latter years of the post-Cold War military drawdown and the post-Sept. 11, 2001 buildup. "From a budget point of view he has seen both ends of the spectrum and that gives him a good perspective to start from." Hagel's possible selection has been met with initial praise from key members of the Senate, including the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. Carl Levin, who said Hagel would be "terrific." The choice could trigger opposition from some Jewish groups and may worry Democrats concerned about Israel-related issues. □



Monday Madness!

Play in our fantastic **FREE ENTRY Slot Tournament every Monday!**

Registration starts at 7pm with a \$350.00 CASH PRIZE pool!

Where Aruba goes to play!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • www.casinoalhambra.com

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.



The Shops at Alhambra Casino



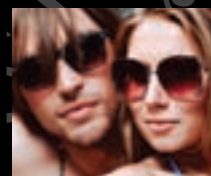
Dining

- Baskin-Robbins
- Dunkin Donuts
- Fusion ~ Piano, Cigar & Wine Bar
- Ginger ~ Asian Flavors
- Juan Valdez Café
- Little Caesars
- Subway



Retail

- Aruba Aloe®
- Aruba Memories
- Daher & Company
- Diamonds International
- Divi Logo Shop
- Intermezzo ~ The Salon
- R-Glass
- The Lazy Lizard
- The Market



Alhambra

CASINO AND SHOPS

No danger at church after phoned threat



Officials exit St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church while responding to a bomb threat, Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, in Newtown, Conn. Worshippers hurriedly left the church Sunday, not far from where a gunman opened fire Friday inside the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

Associated Press

**DAVID KLEPPER
TED SHAFFREY
Associated Press
NEWTOWN, Connecticut
(AP)** — Worshippers hurriedly left a church Sunday when someone phoned in a threat as parishioners remembered 20 children and six adults who were massacred at a nearby elementary school, but police later said nothing dangerous was found. The threat interrupted a crowded Mass and touched off a large police response days after the

worst massacre of school-age children in U.S. history. Halfway through the noon service at the St. Rose of Lima Church, the priest stopped and said, "Please, everybody leave. There is a threat," said worshipper Anna Wood of Oxford, Connecticut. At least a dozen police in camouflage gear and carrying guns soon arrived. An Associated Press photographer saw police leave carrying something in a red tarp. Guns drawn, they searched

the church and adjacent buildings. Deborah Metz, a Trumbull police officer on the scene, gave the all-clear after about an hour. Police said the church would be on lockdown for the rest of the day. Brian Wallace, spokesman for the diocese, said someone called and "threatened to disrupt the Mass." Gunman Adam Lanza, his mother and eight of the child victims attended St. Rose of Lima. It is a Roman Catholic Church with an adjacent school, which Lanza attended briefly. The church hosted overflow crowds at all three morning Masses Sunday. Wood said everyone left

calmly but described a congregation on edge. One boy, about 9, left with his mother. "He asked his mom, 'Mom, why are we leaving?'," Wood recalled. "The mom couldn't answer. She just started crying." Nancy Elis lived in Newtown for 28 years before moving to nearby Southbury in 2006, but she was back Sunday to visit her former church. With police searching the property, she said the scene looked like "a war zone." "This is the house of God," she said, sobbing. "Why would they have to leave for fear for their lives? What's become of our nation?" □

Enjoy our much celebrated 3-Course Dinner Special!

Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

- **Fresh Catch of the Day** prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- **Jumbo Shrimp** from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- **Filet Mignon*** 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- **Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast**

Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

3-course dinner
\$25.95
per person

This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.



Restaurant
Driftwood
Authentic Aruban Seafood

25th ANNIVERSARY

Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Sundays)
For reservations call: 583-2515 - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.
www.driftwoodaruba.com • driftwood@setarnet.aw

ARUBA
OSTRICH
FARM



- Eat, drink, tour and relax
- Fresh home cooked meals
- Open from 9'am - 4'pm
- Hotel transfers available

50% OFF
TOUR PRICE IF YOU
STAY FOR LUNCH.

No reservations
needed for
SMALL GROUPS

Hotel transfer available!

Tel: 585-9630

BRING THIS AD AND RECEIVE THE TOUR
HALF PRICE WITH YOUR LUNCH

eshoppingaruba.com

Vista Bunita Mall Tanki Leendert #82 • Tel: 743-0769

Safe time and just order your "LOCAL" needs online and get them delivered the same day at your door.

No matter if you are Tourist or Local
Visit us ta:

www.eshoppingaruba.com
Local distribution only



Happy Hour

On Pizza

5 o'clock till 7 o'clock
PAY FOR A MEDIUM AND GET A LARGE
HAPPY HOUR on DRINKS
 5 o'clock till 7 o'clock

Pick Up Call: 588-9040

LIVE MUSIC WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Man fires 50 shots at California mall parking lot

NEWPORT BEACH, California (AP) — A suspect who fired about 50 shots in the parking lot of a crowded Southern California shopping mall, sending shoppers sprinting for safety, was cooperative when officers took him into custody, authorities said Sunday.

Witnesses said people ran, screaming and ducking for cover, when 42-year-old Marcos Gurrola fired into the air and onto the ground Saturday afternoon near the Macy's department store at the open-air Fashion Islandmall in Newport Beach.

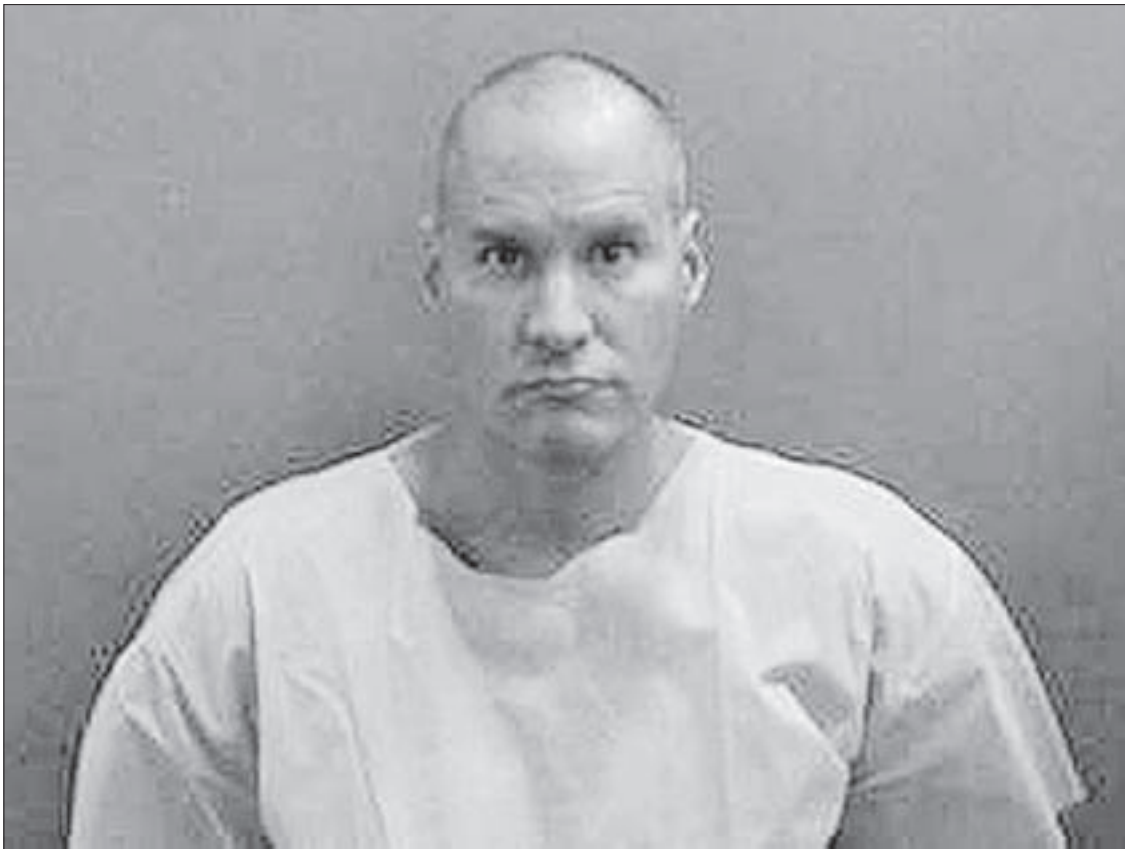
He paused to reload several times, police said.

Then Gurrola put the gun down and offered no resistance when bicycle officers arrested him around 4:30 p.m., said Lt. John Lewis.

"He just gave up," Lewis said.

Investigators have no motive, Lewis said.

Gurrola, of Garden Grove, was charged with shooting at an inhabited dwelling.



This booking photo provided by the Orange County Sheriff's Department on Sunday, Dec., 16, 2012, shows Marcos Gurrola after he was arrested for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon, Saturday, Dec. 15. A suspect was arrested for firing about 50 shots in the parking lot of a crowded Southern California shopping mall in Newport Beach, Calif. Gurrola was cooperative when officers took him into custody, authorities said Sunday.

He was being held Sunday on \$250,000 bail. Police recovered a handgun and ammunition.

Officials said one person suffered a minor injury while running away, and was treated at the scene.

The gunfire caused panic, coming a day after a gunman killed 26 children and adults at a Connecticut elementary school, and days after a deadly mall shooting in Oregon.

The mall, near Pacific Coast Highway in the

heart of Newport Beach, was crowded with holiday shoppers and the parking lot was full.

Many people ran into stores, a movie theater and other businesses.

"It's a miracle nobody got injured," said Sven Maric, who said he was celebrating his wife's birthday at a restaurant patio about 50 yards

(40 meters) away. "The bullets had to land somewhere, and he shot so many."

Some stores voluntarily closed their doors and kept shoppers inside while police investigated.

Bret McGaughey, 22, of Laguna Beach, said he was with his mom in the Apple store when shoppers ran to the rear of the store as employees locked the front entrance.

He estimated that up to 100 people stayed in the back of the store for about 30 minutes until Apple employees announced that police said it was safe to reopen the doors.

Gurrola is a licensed security guard whose firearm permit expired in 2001, according to the Orange County Register, which cited state records.

Gurrola doesn't appear to have a criminal record, the newspaper said.

A telephone number for a Marcos Gurrola was disconnected.

On Tuesday, a gunman at an Oregon shopping mall killed two people and wounded a third amid a holiday crowd estimated at 10,000 people. Clackamas County authorities are still trying to determine why the gunman opened fire before killing himself. □

Associated Press.



"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

JOLLY PIRATES

SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING!
DAILY 9:30am-1:30pm \$57pp
Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ, Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

AFTERNOON SNORKEL
DAILY 2:30-5:30pm \$38pp
Shorter version with Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

***SUNSET SAIL**
Mon & Fri 5-7pm \$30pp
Open Bar included & Ropeswing!
 ★ additional days upon request/seasonal

Save \$10 per couple/per coupon for morning cruise Save \$5 per couple/per coupon for afternoon cruise

Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations
ONLY - Present coupon at boarding 586 8107/592 7858



EVER BEEN THIS CLOSE TO A GREAT DEAL?
BENEFITS HIGHLIGHTS

- Unlimited golf
- Cart fee included
- \$2000 Allowance for food & beverage and Spa
- 20% discount on food & beverage
- 20% discount golf merchandise
- 20% discount with vacation rental
- 40% discount on Spa & Salon treatments
- Spouse and childrens up to 18 with benefits

BECOME AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER NOW!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

ANNUAL COSTS • \$5000 (includes the \$2000 Allowance for food and beverage and Spa).

OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 15th 2012

Fidel Castro nominated for Cuban parliament seat

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Retired Cuban leader Fidel Castro has been nominated for a seat in the country's parliament, authorities said Sunday. The afternoon TV news announced "the leader of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro Ruz heads the list of 25 candidates to the Cuban parliament from the municipality of Santiago de Cuba, approved by the delegates of this state body."

Castro was also named as a delegate in 2008, when he officially retired as president. It's unclear whether he has played an active role in legislative duties in the years since. The current session of parliament held its last gathering last week and is due to reconvene with new membership in February following elections. It's expected to rename to the presidency Castro's younger brother

Raul, who was also nominated as a representative of the municipality of Segundo Frente.

Fidel Castro, 86, stepped down as president temporarily in 2006 due to a near-fatal illness and left the presidency for good two years later. Raul has been in charge since then.

Today the elder Castro spends most of his time out of the public eye and has ceased penning his once-regular essays known as "Reflections."

In October, Castro mocked those who are anxious to see him depart this world after speculation that his health was dire once again made the rounds on the rumor mill. In an essay ironically titled "Fidel is Dying," he explained that he decided to stop publishing the opinion pieces not due to poor health, but because the space that Cuban state media devoted

to his words was needed for other purposes.

This weekend he once again ended weeks of public silence in a letter that Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro read to a ceremony marking the eighth anniversary of the ALBA block of Latin American nations.

In it Castro praised his friend and ally President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, who is recovering from cancer surgery in Cuba, and recalled the two men's first encounter 18 years ago.

"The name of Hugo Chavez is admired and respected throughout the world," Castro wrote in the letter, which was dated Saturday. "Everyone and even many of his adversaries wish his quick recovery."

"The doctors are fighting



In this March 28, 2012 file photo made available by the Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano*, Pope Benedict XVI, right, meets with Fidel Castro in Havana, Cuba.

Associated Press

with optimism for that objective," Castro concluded. Also Saturday, a high-ranking Venezuelan official said Castro has been paying daily visits to Chavez since last Tuesday's operation. "He always stops by to personally find out about

El Comandante's health condition and also to share his knowledge with all of us, and to give the family courage and encouragement," said Science and Technology Minister Jorge Arreaza, who is also Chavez's son-in-law. □

A new office.
A better way to buy
and sell real estate.

We are excited to announce
the opening of our second office
@ the **Radisson Aruba Resort**.

Coldwell Banker Aruba Realty

Radisson Aruba Resort
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 81
Phone (297) 586-6672



www.coldwellbanker.aw



RAGE
SILVER



CHAMILIA
YOUR LIFE. YOUR STYLE.

RAGE SILVER for the latest trends in Sterling Silver Jewelry

Renaissance Marketplace (Downtown) 9am-9pm Sundays Closed
Palm Beach Plaza Mall (Hotel Area) 10am -10pm Sundays 5-10pm



THE PELICAN NEST

Bar & Seafood Grill



"For the ultimate... Sunset Dinner experience"...

Present this ad & enjoy a **FREE CEVICHE** per coupe with your 3 course meal.

The best of Palm Beach, located on the Caribbean Ocean amid turquoise waters and fresh sunny breezes. The menu offers an impressive selection of fresh Seafood, International dishes, a relaxing atmosphere, exclusive seating for dinner and the option while to feed the fish.

Located between Holiday Inn and Playa Linda Resort • www.pelican-aruba.com



For reservation call:
5862259

Conservative LDP returns with landslide in Japan

MALCOLM FOSTER

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's conservative Liberal Democratic Party returned to power in a landslide election victory Sunday after three years in opposition, according to unofficial results, signaling a rightward shift in the government that could further heighten tensions with China, a key economic partner as well as rival.

The victory means that the hawkish former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will get a second chance to lead the nation after a one-year stint in 2006-2007. He would be Japan's seventh prime minister in six-and-a-half years.

In the first election since the March 11, 2011, earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters, atomic energy ended up not being a major election issue even though polls show about 80 percent of Japanese want to phase out nuclear power.

Public broadcaster NHK's tally showed that the LDP, which ruled Japan for most of the post-World War II era until it was dumped in 2009, won 294 seats in the 480-seat lower house of parliament. Official results were not expected until Monday morning.

LDP, the most pro-nuclear power party, had 118 seats before the election. A new, staunchly anti-nuclear power party won just nine seats, according to NHK.

In the end, economic concerns won out, said Kazuhisa



Japan's main opposition leader Shinzo Abe, right, of the Liberal Democratic Party, and the party Secretary-General Shigeru Ishiba pose for photos as they place a rosette on the name of one of those elected in parliamentary elections at the party headquarters in Tokyo Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012.

Associated Press

Kawakami, a political science professor at Meiji Gakuin University.

"We need to prioritize the economy, especially since we are an island nation," he said. "We're not like Germany. We can't just get energy from other countries in a pinch."

The results were a sharp rebuke for Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's ruling Democratic Party of Japan, reflecting widespread unhappiness with its failure to keep campaign promises and get the stagnant economy going during its three years in power.

The DPJ won in a landslide three years ago amid high hopes for change, but won only 57 seats, compared to 230 seats before Sunday's election,

according to the NHK tally. Among the casualties were eight Cabinet ministers, the most to lose their seats in an election since World War II, the Kyodo News agency reported. With Japan stuck in a two-decade slump and receding behind China as the region's most important economic player, voters appeared ready to turn back to the LDP.

A serious-looking Abe characterized the win as more of a protest vote against the DPJ than a strong endorsement of his party.

"I think the results do not mean we have regained the public's trust 100 percent. Rather, they reflect 'no votes' to the DPJ's politics that stalled everything the past three years," he told NHK. "Now we are facing the test of how we can

live up to the public's expectations, and we have to answer that question." Japanese TV stations compile their own tallies by adding all local government interim vote counts and are generally highly accurate. The central government does not provide a grand total until all the numbers are official the next day.

Calling the results "severe," Noda told a late-night news conference he was stepping down as party chief to take responsibility for the defeat. "I apologize deeply for our failure to achieve results," he said. "It was the voters' judgment to our failure to live up to their expectations."

The LDP will stick with its long-time partner New Komeito, backed by a large Buddhist organization, to form a coalition government, party officials said. Together, they now control 325 seats, securing a two-thirds majority that would make it easier for the government to pass legislation.

Noda said a special parliamentary session would be held before year-end to pick a new prime minister. As leader of the biggest party in the lower house, Abe will almost certainly assume that post. The new government will need to quickly deliver results ahead of upper house elections in

the summer. To revive Japan's struggling economy, Abe will likely push for increased public works spending and lobby for stronger moves by the central bank to break Japan out of its deflationary trap.

"The economy has been in dire straits these past three years, and it must be the top priority," Abe said in a televised interview. He has repeatedly said in the past he will protect Japan's "territory and beautiful seas" amid a territorial dispute with China over some uninhabited islands in the East China Sea that Japan calls Senkaku and China calls Daiyou.

"We must strengthen our alliance with the U.S. and also improve relations with China, with a strong determination that is no change in the fact the Senkaku islands are our territory," Abe said in the interview. President Barack Obama congratulated Abe in a statement issued Sunday, declaring that the U.S.-Japanese alliance "serves as the cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific." Obama said he looked forward to working close with the new Japanese government "on a range of important bilateral, regional and global issues." Some Japanese voters also said they supported the LDP's vows to build a stronger, more assertive country to answer increasing pressure from China and threats of North Korean rocket launches. □

Europcar

Toyota Yaris

3 Day Special

\$75.

Call us for Pick-up at
Excluding Taxes **583-0200**

Palestinian premier: Boycott Israeli goods

MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH
Associated Press
RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— The Palestinian premier called on his people Sunday to boycott Israeli products, the latest step in an economic battle between Palestinians and Israelis spurred by the Palestinians' status upgrade last month at the United Nations.

Palestinian Prime Minister Salaam Fayyad, a U.S.-educated economist, told reporters the call for a boycott is a protest against Israel's withholding of funds to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority.

Israel is holding \$100 million in taxes it collects on behalf of the Palestinians, based on an interim peace accord. It cut off the funds to protest

the Palestinians' successful bid last month at the United Nations, which granted the Palestinians non-state observer status. Israel said the Palestinian move was an attempt to bypass peace negotiations. Palestinians deny that. Israel has briefly withheld tax transfers on previous occasions to pressure the Palestinians.

The Palestinian Authority government in the West Bank uses the money to pay salaries to its tens of thousands of civil servants and security forces. Israel said it is using the money to pay down huge debts Fayyad's government owes to Israeli firms, including its electricity company. Fayyad admitted a Pal-

estinian boycott of Israeli goods would violate an interim peace agreement with Israel, in which the two sides pledged economic cooperation, but he justified the move because "the Israeli government is working against this agreement" by withholding tax funds.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said the Palestinians should "concentrate efforts on how to build their own economy, not how to boycott someone else's."

In the past, Fayyad called for a boycott of goods made in Israeli settlements, but that boycott appears to have had no impact. Palestinians oppose settle-



Palestinians wave flags during a demonstration calling to boycott Israeli products, in the West Bank city of Nablus Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012.
Associated Press

ments because they are located on West Bank land they claim for a future state.

This is the first time Fayyad has called for a boycott of all Israeli goods, not just ones made in West Bank settlements. Such a boycott would severely limit goods on the Palestinian

market, as Palestinians are heavily dependent on Israel for consumer products. To recoup its losses from the Israeli fund cutoff, the Palestinians have turned to Arab countries to donate funds. "We are trying to prevent the collapse of the Palestinian Authority," Fayyad said. □

Israeli foreign minister officially resigns

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's foreign minister has tendered his official resignation over fraud and breach of trust charges filed against him.

Avigdor Lieberman's resignation goes into effect Tuesday. He said Sunday he hopes to take "the briefest possible leave."

Lieberman announced Friday that he would resign to fight the charges, leveled a day earlier.

He remains on the slate of candidates running with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for election to parliament on Jan. 22, but his legal woes could complicate his hopes to serve as a



Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman speaks to the media during an event in Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012.

Associated Press

minister in the next government. Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu and Netanyahu's Likud Party recently joined forces in the election, enabling the ultranationalist politician to position himself as Netanyahu's heir. □



Authentic Aruban Cuisine...




Valid only for December 2012
Bring this Coupon and you get this promotion

3 Course Local Menu

Appetizer, Entree and Dessert
Fish Soup or Salad
Ice Cream, Quesillo or Chocolate Cake
Choice include our specialties:
Aruban Combo, Cabrito Stoba,
Fisherman's Loot, Ribs, Gasparito Chicken.

Gasparito #3 • Noord, Aruba
Tel: (297) 586-7144 / 586-7044

\$21.95

Don't forget about our early bird special from 5:30 to 6:30



12 DAYS OF POKER

JOIN US FOR THE

First Annual Year-End Championship

Starting on December 15th
and ending with the
Championship Games on December 26th

We will feature an exciting Poker Tournament
nightly, at 8:30pm

Presenting Freeze Out, Satellite, No Limit, with different buy-ins,
fees, re-buys and add-ons to make your
Twelve Days of Poker very exciting!

All proceeds dedicated to a local children's charity, Casa Cuna Progresso

Cash Prizes Guaranteed

Happy Holidays
from your favorite
Poker Room

The Casino at the Radisson. Open daily 12noon to 4am
Saturday & Sunday 11am to 4am
For information call +297 586 4045
www.radissoncasino.com



**The Morning Cruise the Different Island Cruise**

2 hours + refreshments, Departure 9:30 till 11:30 am
 * See the beautiful South part of the Island
 * Where no other boats go.
 * Experience an Xciting, Xhilarating on of a kind Cruise!! and you learn something about the Island @ the same time!

\$55

Save \$10 per couple for the morning cruise or save \$5 per couple for the afternoon cruise

The Afternoon Cruise 30 min departure 1:00pm or 2:00pm

* We take you to the northern tip of Aruba, where the waves are high
 * The Worlds nr 2 Beach and other Beaches
 * One of a kind High Speed Cruise of the North West side of the Island & you learn something about the Island @ the same time!

\$35

Departure from MooMba Beach. 15 min prior right side of the pier. Guests who are staying at Palm Beach pick-up will be on the beach in front of the hotel.

Private cruises
Available

CALL 5614118
OR

OCEANXARUBA@HOTMAIL.COM
A great time for the whole family

Syrian vice president: both sides losing in war

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's long-time vice president said Sunday that his regime and the rebels are both going down a losing path after 21 months of civil war, a rare admission by a top government official that President Bashar Assad's victory is unlikely.

The comments by Farouk al-Sharaa came as an Islamist faction of Syrian rebels captured an infantry base in the northern city of Aleppo, and Syrian war-planes blasted a Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus, killing eight people and wounding dozens, activists said.

Al-Sharaa told the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar that neither the rebels nor the Assad regime can "decide the battle militarily." It appeared to be an attempt to show that the rebels are not the solution to the Syria conflict, and their victory might bring chaos to the country.

Balancing that, he said the Assad regime "cannot achieve change."

The solution to the conflict must come from within Syria, al-Sharaa said, adding that any political settle-

ment "must include stopping all types of violence, and the creation of a national unity government with wide powers."

The Assad regime has long rejected Western involvement in the civil war and has called for talks with the opposition. Most rebel groups refuse to meet with Assad, demanding his removal from power before laying down their arms.

Excerpts of the interview were posted on Al-Akhbar's English-language website late Sunday. The full interview will be published on Monday, the newspaper said.

Last week more than 100 nations, including the U.S., recognized the new Syrian opposition council as the legitimate representative of the country, a boost for the opposition forces that have been bombing regime targets in and around Damascus, once an impregnable stronghold of the Assad regime.

In the latest blow to Assad, rebels overran a military base in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, the second military installation to fall there in a week.

A statement by the al-Tawheed Brigade said the



In this Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012 file photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian president, Bashar Assad, performs Eid prayers in the Hamad Mosque in Damascus, Syria. Associated Press

rebels "fully liberated" the military facility in Aleppo on Saturday. It was posted on al-Tawheed's official website on Sunday and said the Islamist rebel brigade's commander was killed in the battle.

The complex, known as Hanano Barracks, includes an army base, a recruiting center and a military school.

The Al-Tawheed Brigade is one of the largest rebel groups operating in Aleppo, which has been a major front in the civil war since July.

One of the videos posted on the group's website

shows the body of a man the narrator says is "the hero and martyr who was killed on the day of liberating the infantry school," apparently the Al-Tawheed commander, Col. Youssef al-Jader. A boy said to be the commander's son is seen crying as he leans over the dead man.

In a related development, Egypt said Sunday that it has evacuated more than 4,000 of its nationals from Syria over the past few months. The Cairo Foreign Ministry statement did not give further details. Egypt's national airline halted flights to and from Syria last

month because of the deteriorating security situation.

Also Sunday, Iran put forward a six-point plan to end the Syria civil war, including negotiations, presidential elections and a halt to arms shipments. This came during a two-day meeting of 200 representatives of Syrian communities, but no prominent rebels. The rebels are unlikely to relate to the plan, as they refuse to talk to Assad and consider Iran unqualified to mediate because of its support of the regime.

The uprising started in March 2011 as peaceful protests but quickly turned into a civil war after the government's brutal crackdown on dissent.

Activists say more than 40,000 people have been killed.

On Sunday, fighter jets screamed over Damascus to bomb two areas in the southern part of the capital.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said fighter jets carried out six airstrikes the Hajar Aswad area and the neighboring Yarmouk Palestinian camp, where the rebels have been advancing. □

NOW SERVING BREAKFAST

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

**ALL YOU CAN
EAT PANCAKES**

\$6.99



2 EGGS, TOAST

\$4.49



**FREE COFFEE
UNLIMITED REFILLS WITH
ANY BREAKFAST ENTREE**

OPEN DAILY - 8:00 A.M. - 10:00 ISH

**LOCATED BEHIND SEÑOR FROGS, ACROSS FROM THE RADISSON HOTEL
Serving breakfast from 8:00 am til 12:00 noon**

FREE DELIVERY OVER \$40

FOR HI AND LOW RISE HOTEL DISTRICT - INCLUDING THE BEACH!



5 Burgers Aruba



BURGERS HANDPRESSED / DAILY FRESH CUT FRIES!

TEL 5666854

LE BISTRO

ARUBA

French Mediterranean



Roll the dice and WIN! 3 x 6 = 100% Discount!

Receive 3 dice with your bill and get a chance to win great prizes.
Ask your waiter for the winning combinations and the prizes of the day.

Located at The Paseo Herencia Mall

Mandela honored by South Africa's governing party

JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Nelson Mandela's political party sang praises for the anti-apartheid icon Sunday, as the 94-year-old leader remained under doctors' care in the longest hospitalization he's faced since leaving prison decades ago.

President Jacob Zuma led delegates of the African National Congress in song as they opened their Mangaung convention, being held in the city also known as Bloemfontein. The song, in Zulu, calls out: "The journey is long, ... Mandela told his followers that we'll meet on freedom day."

In his address, Zuma also touched on Mandela, who has been hospitalized since Dec. 8 for tests while receiving treatment for a lung infection. He also underwent a successful gallstone surgery Saturday.

"He is receiving good care from a competent and caring medical team," Zuma said. "We wish him and the family all the best during this time."

Mandela, South Africa's



Giant portraits of former African National Congress (ANC) presidents, including former South African President Nelson Mandela, right, overlook Bloemfontein, South Africa, Thursday, Dec 13, 2012. Associated Press

first democratically elected president, was admitted to a hospital in South Africa's capital, Pretoria, the government has said. At first, officials said Mandela was undergoing tests and later they acknowledged he had been diagnosed with a lung infection.

The Nobel laureate has a history of lung problems, after falling ill with tuberculosis in 1988 toward the tail-end of his 27 years in prison before his release and subsequent presidency. While doctors said at the time the disease caused no perma-

nent damage to his lungs, medical experts say tuberculosis can cause problems years later for those infected. On Saturday, Mandela underwent endoscopic surgery to remove gallstones, a procedure in which a patient usually receives sedatives and an anesthetic to allow a surgeon to put an endoscope down their throat, authorities say. The surgeon then can remove the gallstones, which are small, crystal-like masses that can cause a person tremendous pain.

Mandela's nine-day hos-

pital stay, his longest since leaving prison in February 1990, has sparked increasing concern about a man who represents the aspirations of a country still struggling with race and pover-

ty. South Africa, a nation of 50 million people, reveres Mandela for his magnanimity and being able to bridge racial gaps after centuries of white racist rule. □



Early Bird Special

Available from 4 pm to 7 pm

3 - Course Menu for only \$22.95

Tax and Service Charge not included.

WEDNESDAY ALL NIGHT

Appetizer: **Soup** OR **House salad**

Entrees: **Filet Mignon**

OR

Prime Sirloin Steak

OR

Grilled Chicken

OR

Grouper Filet

OR

Tango Ribs

OR

Fettucini Carbonara

Dessert: **Flan Caramel**

OR

Ice Cream

All our meat is
grilled on our
open charcoal grill!

All the main courses (except pasta) are served with fresh vegetables and corn on the cob and your choice of Baked Potato, French Fries, House potatoes or Rice

Tens of thousands in Paris street for gay marriage

PARIS (AP) — Tens of thousands of people supporting the Socialist government's plan to legalize same-sex marriage and adoptions in France have marched in a Paris demonstration.

President Francois Hollande has said he would enact his "marriage for everyone" plan within a year of taking office last May. The text will go to parliament next month. But vocal opposition from religious leaders, some politicians and parts



People demonstrate for the government project to legalize same-sex marriage and adoption for same-sex couples in Paris, Sunday Dec. 16, 2012. Associated Press

of rural France has divided the country. Estimates of those in Sunday's peaceful march ranged from 60,000 to 150,000 with banners reading "A Gay Marriage Is

Better Than A Sad One" or "Single, Free in Solidarity." The words "equality" and "choice" dominated the march of male and female couples, children and supporters. □

Phone (297) 586 8600 • www.tangoaruba.com

Located at Arawak Garden,
Palm Beach - walking distance
from all High Rise Hotels



FAMILY OPERATED since 1984

AQUA WINDIE'S Tel: 583-5669
www.aquawindies.com

SCUBA DIVING

- ½ Day Beginner Course
- 1 and 2 Tank Dives
- Certification Courses
- Private Snorkel Tours

SMALL GROUPS!

\$10 discount coupon (1pc per couple)

Fitness

- Spinning
- Body Pump
- Zumba Plus
- Body Sculpt

Aqua Fitness

- Aqua Spinning
- Stretching / Toning
- Condition Swimming
- Senior / Rehab



Lack of food stunts Chad children, damages minds

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

Associated Press

LOURI, Chad (AP) — One

morning, a little girl called Achta sat in the front row of this village's only school and struggled mightily with the assignment her teacher had given her.

She grasped a piece of chalk in her tiny fingers. Her face tense with concentration, she tried to direct the chalk clockwise across her slate. She'd been asked to draw a circle. What she drew looked more like a lopsided triangle.

After half a dozen tries, her teacher took away her slate and tried to hide his frustration as he wiped it clean with his palm of his hand. He held her miniature hand in his and traced a circle, then a second, then a third. "Like this," he said. "Like an egg. See?"

Drawing a circle is considered a developmental marker. It tests fine motor skills, the use of the small muscles that control the fingers, allowing us to eat spaghetti with a fork or cut a piece of cardboard with scissors. Children who are developing at a normal rate can trace a circle by age 3, and Achta doesn't look much older.

She is so small that you can hoist her up on one hip easily, as her mother sometimes does when she



In this Nov. 4, 2012 photo, a little girl cries as she is weighed as part of a mobile nutrition clinic to examine local children and identify cases of underweight, stunted, or malnourished children, in Michemire, in the Mao region of Chad.

Associated Press

carries her to school. She is so small that when she sits on her bunk in class, her feet dangle a foot off the ground.

But Achta isn't three. School records show she is 7 years old.

In this village where malnutrition has become chronic, children have simply stopped growing. In the county that includes Louri, 51.9 percent of children are stunted, one of the highest rates in the world, according to a survey published by UNICEF. That's more than half the children in the village.

The struggle that is on display every day in Louri's

one-room schoolhouse reveals not only the staggering price these children are paying, but also the price it has exacted from Africa. Up to two in five kids across the continent are stunted, researchers estimate, which means that they fall short physically and, even more devastating, mentally. It's a slowdown that creeps across a community, cutting down the human capital, leaving behind a generation of people unable to attain their potential.

"We have a habit of focusing on mortality, because the photographs are more shocking. But there is a silent phenomenon that is

going on — it's stunting," says Jacques Terrenoire, the Chad country director of the French aid group, Action Against Hunger. "It poses a fundamental problem for the future of a country."

Elementary School No. 1 in Louri is a reflection of the village's modest means. It's made entirely of dried grass woven into a lattice held together by branches, creating a kind of grass igloo. To enter the school, you bend down, tuck in your head and slip through a hole.

The school is organized into two rows of bunks. The smallest children sit in the front.

Last year, 78 boys and girls enrolled in the equivalent of first grade in Chad's school system. Of those children, 42 failed the test to graduate into the next grade, a percentage that almost exactly mirrors the number of children stunted in the county.

School director Hassane Wardougou sums up the reason for the class' overwhelming failure: "They're too little," he says. "When they are this small, they don't understand anything."

Among those held back this year were 7-year-old Achta, as well as the three boys who share her bunk

— Youssef, Mahamat and Nasruddin. Taken together, they are a window into this hidden scourge which is undermining efforts to right Africa.

Stunting is the result of having either too few calories, or too little variety in the types of calories consumed, or both.

Achta's birth seven years ago coincided with the first major drought to hit the Sahel this decade. Climate change has meant that the normally once-a-decade droughts are now coming every few years. The rains that failed to fall over Chad when Achta was born failed again when she was 3, when she was 5 and when she started first grade last year.

The droughts decimated her family's herd. With each dead animal, they ate less. Most days, Achta leaves home without eating anything. Usually there isn't anything for lunch, either. Dinner is millet flour mixed with water, eaten plain. Her mother's kitchen doesn't have so much as a pinch of salt or a cube of sugar.

"They come to school having had nothing more than a glass of water. They can't make it till the end of the day," says their teacher, Djobelou Guidigui. "Some fall asleep in class. Others vomit." □

red sail sports
Sunset Sail

Watch the sun go down aboard one of our luxurious catamarans. This relaxing sail includes hors d'oeuvres and open bar.

5:30 to 7:30 pm on Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday



Beautiful sunsets



Romantic



Caribbean cocktails

Book now! Via internet: www.redsailaruba.com or by phone: (+297) 586-1603



Girls Night Out 2012

Friendships renewed with shopping, good cheer during T.H. Palm & Company event

PALM BEACH – For the 8th consecutive year, T.H. Palm & Company hosted its annual “Girls Night Out”, held this past Wednesday, Dec 12. The annual social event combines a shopping night with a festive celebration renewing ties with T.H. Palm & Company clients in a show of appreciation for

their year-round patronage.

“We really look forward to this annual event where we have the opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to our local clients. We invite them to bring a girlfriend and enjoy a night out to celebrate friendships as well as to receive a special intro-

duction to our new lines of recently-arrived gifts, clothing and accessories,” explains Jodi Tobman, owner of The Salamander Group retail stores of which T.H. Palm & Company is a part. Coinciding with the “Girls Night Out” event, donations collected through The Salamander Group’s “Tikkun Olam” corporate responsibility program were provided to representatives of Telefon pa Hubentud (youth help line) and the Edmund E. Harms Foundation (hospice care). Last month, other program-sponsored foundations, including Autism Foundation, Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad (against domestic violence), Kibrahacha 60+ (senior citizens center) and Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds (cancer awareness, prevention and support), each received a donation derived from a portion of sales from T.H. Palm & Company. Other retail stores belonging to The Salamander Group include The Coconut Trading Co., Caribbean Queen, The Juggling Fish and The Lazy Lizard.

On the evening of the event, T.H. Palm & Company was overflowing with special guest clients, with conversations ongoing among the shelves of upscale resort wear, around tables laid out with eye-catching novel gift items and near displays of distinctive wall decor, with laughter spilling out onto the street in front of the Playa Linda Beach Resort. Gift bags were distributed at the end of the evening, with a specialty item imparting a light-hearted life lesson. The give-away was



typical of many the boutique’s most popular gift items that carry messages that combine practical views touched with a comedic viewpoint.

“Our boutique shares a philosophy that is held by many of clients, that laughter is good for the soul. It is what

makes our gift items such a joy to share, and which we hope will continue to keep our clients returning not just at the holiday season, but also year round.” comments Jodi Tobman, happy to have hosted valued clients for yet another “Girls Night Out”. □



School Teachers Celebrate the Season at Amazonia Churrascaria



Palm Beach – Teachers working at diverse schools on the island, some as instructors at the Teacher's College, and some in the secondary-education

schools, both academic and vocational streams, Filomena's college Mavo, and the Pius X primary school, got together in honor of the holidays to celebrate the season at Amazonia Churrascaria. This group enjoys sports and different activities together, they have also been friends

for a few years, and what better way to celebrate professional and personal ties, than delicious dinner over perfectly grilled meats and freshly composed salads. Amazonia Churrascaria proved to be the perfect party venue, for the hard working, dedicated educators.□

Beauty On The Beach

Lauren Smith

From Boston is making her 3rd trip to our lovely Island. She is staying at Casa del Mar.

WINNER OF TRIP ADVISOR'S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012
Best Lobster House and International Cuisine's Restaurant

The Blue Lobster
 INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE
 Phone: 586-3843



The WEB maintenance Department Enjoys Dinner at Amazonia Churrascaria



Palm Beach – A group of 16 Elmar NV employees enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas Dinner at Amazonia Churrascaria.

We're all colleagues and friends, they explain, and we enjoyed the time together in the restaurant's private wine vault, pampered and cared for by the restaurant's friendly staff. Colleagues, family members and friends have been congregating at Amazonia Churrascaria over the past few weeks to celebrate the holidays together, enjoy-

ing Brazilian-style, Rodizio lunch or dinner, making unlimited trips to the extravagant 50-item fresh seasonal salad bar, and accepting unlimited visits from the roaming gauchos, who serve up 15 different cuts of fire-roasted beef, pork, lamb and chicken, accompanied by the restaurant's popular side dishes and sauces, with local holiday favorites, including an entire Christmas Ham, Turkey or Christmas Ayacas, available on request. □

1st phase 80% SOLD

Your Own Caribbean Private Sanctuary

BLUE RESIDENCES

127 exclusive ocean view residences with 180° views of the Caribbean and just a few steps from the beach

Pering USA (+1 786) 629.9060
ARUBA (+297) 742.9703
VENEZUELA (+58212) 750.0161 - 750.0164

www.bluearuba.com / sales@bluearuba.com

Preferred RESIDENCES



The Munars and the Hollborns honored at Caribbean Palm Village Resort



Noord – The Caribbean Palm Village Resort is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year honoring members who purchased timeshare units in 1987, as the quaint charming resort in Noord was still under construction.

Fernando & Martha Serrano Munar purchased their timeshare unit on December 10th 1987, and return in 1988 to enjoy their investment. From Bucaramanga, Colombia, they got married on December 5th, 1987, and immediately came here on their honeymoon, arriving on the island on December 8th, 25 years ago. They were in-

vited to tour the Caribbean Palm Village Resort property, bought their unit, and have been enjoying it ever since, with their family members. Richard & Nancy Hollborn were also honored at the resort, this week. They came to Aruba three consecutive years before Caribbean Palm Village Resort was even constructed. Having made the purchase of a time share unit, they had been coming faithfully every year for the past quarter of a century! From Long Island, NY, the Hollborns have introduced Aruba to their family members. They enjoy the people of Aru-

ba, they explain, and love to share the destination with their friends.

The informal honoring ceremony, at the fun, weekly manager's cocktail party was animated by members of management and Scabeche restaurant with a Conga line fueled by Tequila, as pictured here, with all attending guests having a blast.

Board member Ed Hayes and Dan Maloof joined interim manager Astrid Muller and treasurer of the board Randy Croes for a photo opportunity, with their distinguished guests. □





Gold medalist Ryan Lochte of U.S. poses for the photographers during men's 100 meters individual medley victory ceremony during the FINA Short Course Swimming World Championships at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012.

Associated Press

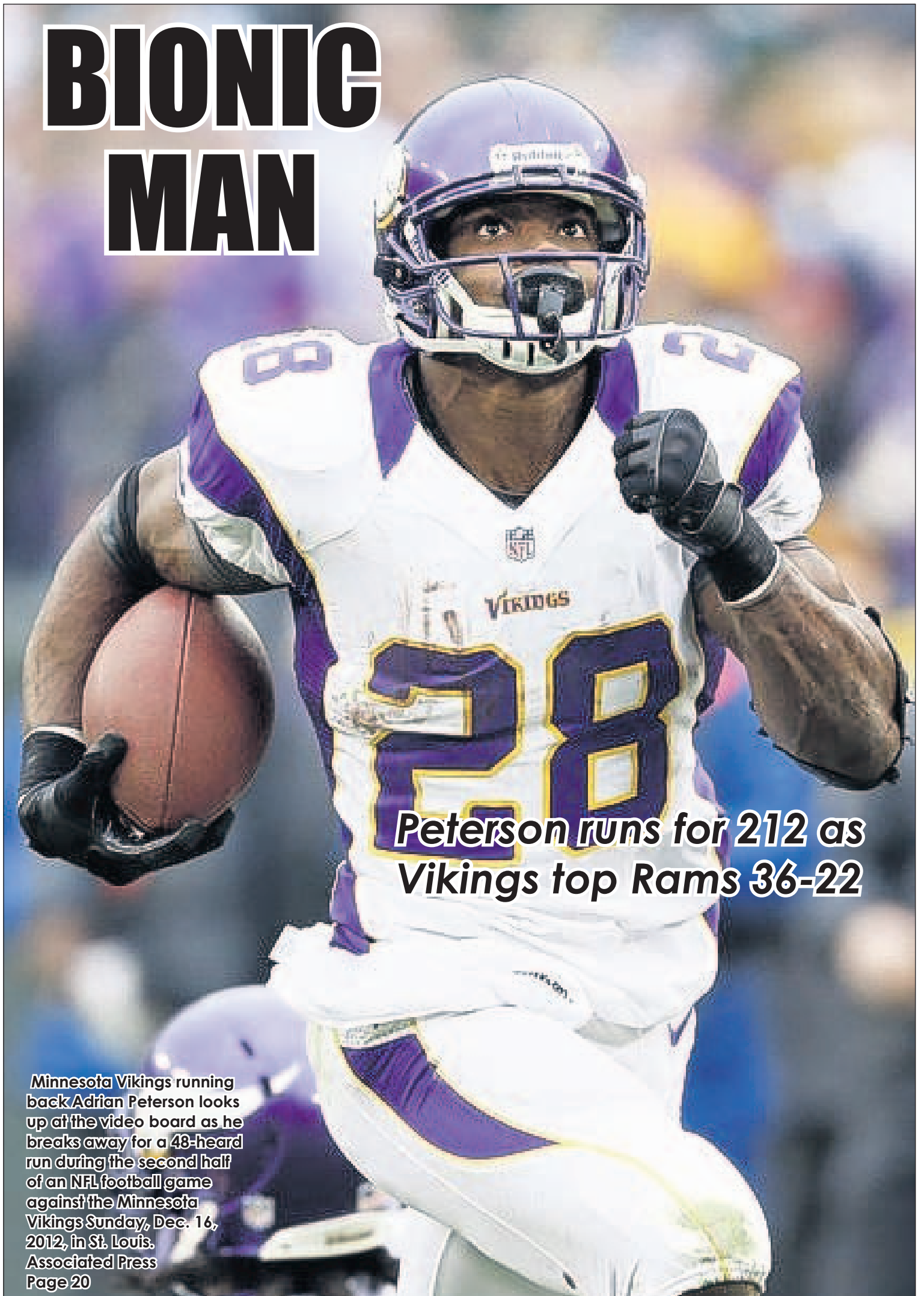
Ryan Lochte leaves worlds with 6 golds

ISTANBUL (AP) — Ryan Lochte won two more races at the short-course world championships in Turkey on Sunday, finishing the event with six golds and one silver. The result matched his medal tally when the biennial championships were held in Dubai in 2010. Lochte won the 100-meter individual medley, a day after he broke the world record in the event. The five-time Olympic champion finished in 51.21 seconds, ahead of Kenneth To of Australia and George Bovell III of Trinidad and Tobago.

To started well and led at the halfway mark. He held off Lochte over the breast-stroke leg, but the American accelerated in the freestyle to move ahead.

Continued on Page 18

BIONIC MAN



Peterson runs for 212 as Vikings top Rams 36-22

Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson looks up at the video board as he breaks away for a 48-yard run during the second half of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, in St. Louis. Associated Press
Page 20

J.H. YEE'S

珍味 Asian Bistro

LUNCH SPECIALS starting at \$14.95

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL \$14.95

HOUSE SPECIAL \$16.95

SUSHI BAR (lunch and dinner)

NOW SERVING TEPPANYAKI (hibachi cooking table)

OPEN
Lunch 12 pm-3pm
Dinner 6 pm-11 pm
EVERY DAY

Located at South Beach Centre | Palm Beach 55, Aruba | Tel: 586 3888 | Fax: 586 8883

Maze takes lead in W. Cup giant slalom

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

COURCHEVEL, France (AP)

— Overall World Cup leader Tina Maze was on course for a second straight World Cup giant slalom win after posting the fastest time in the first run Sunday, while rival Lindsey Vonn had another disappointing day as she failed to finish. Vonn is third in the overall standings and looks set to lose more crucial points in her bid for a fifth World Cup title, having crashed in Friday's downhill in Val d'Isere. Maze can punish her further if she follows up her victory in St. Moritz last weekend with another podium. She leads by 0.63 seconds, after finishing in 1

minute, 10.03 seconds.

"It was really challenging, you have to adapt really fast," Maze said. "I think the top wasn't so good and then I started to ski how I wanted, so I'm happy."

Frenchwoman Tessa Worley was second quickest, followed by Kathrin Zettel of Austria. Vonn was way behind Maze at the first time split and then lost balance as she veered to the left.

The race was held despite heavy snowfall making for poor visibility, and the Stade Emile-Allais course was hard and bumpy.

Vonn seemed to lose balance, lifting up her right knee slightly and then falling sideways to the left. She



Slovenia's Tina Maze celebrates at finish line after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom, in St. Moritz, Switzerland, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012.

Associated Press

stood for a few seconds with her head down and then lifted up one of her skis as if to inspect it.

"Hit a rock on my left ski in the GS and skied off course," Vonn, who spent time in a hospital with a stomach bug in November, said on her Facebook page. "(I am) struggling to find the energy I usually have...going to think hard over the next few days about my plan for the coming weeks and how to get strong again. Trying to stay positive."

Having failed to gain any

points back on Maze after the super-G in Val d'Isere was canceled on Saturday, Vonn now has two more technical events — a giant slalom and slalom — in Are, Sweden later this week.

Julia Mancuso gave the U.S. team something to cheer by posting the sixth quickest time — although she is 2.19 behind Maze.

"Considering all the snow, I would say it was rough but it was consistently rough," Mancuso said. "There were no patches where it felt inconsistent. (The visibility) is actually not so bad." □

Schwarz wins 1,000 speedskating; Shani Davis 2nd

HARBIN, China (AP) — Samuel Schwarz of Germany beat Shani Davis of the U.S. to win the 1,000-meter World Cup speedskating race in China on Sunday to rise to second in the overall standings.

Schwarz finished in 1 minute, 9.69 seconds — 0.18 ahead of Davis and 0.23 in front of Hein Otterspeer of the Netherlands.

American Denny Morrison leads the standings after five races with 325 points, 11 more than Schwarz. Otterspeer is third with 310.

Joji Kato of Japan won the 500 ahead of Dutchmen Ronald Mulder and Jan Smeekens.

On the women's side, Zhang Hong of China captured the 1,000 ahead of Czech skater Karolina Erbanova and Russia's Olga Fatkulina. Lee Sang-hwa of South Korea won the 500, followed by Yu Jing of China and Nao Kodaira of Japan. □

LOCHE

Continued from page 17

Lochte then joined the U.S. team of Matthew Grevers, Kevin Cordes and Thomas Shields to win the 4x100-meter medley relay in 3:21.03, defeating Russia in second place and Australia in third. Lochte's time of 45.22 seconds was the fastest on the team.

He also won silver in the 200 backstroke. Earlier Sunday, he said he was starting to feel tired.

"All the races I have done last week are starting to catch up," he said. "But it is the last day of the tournament and there is always something left in the tank." Radoslaw Kawecki of Poland beat Lochte and said he had deployed the same tactics as his rival.

"We both wanted to wait until the final 50-75 meters and start pushing really hard. I am happy I came out on top and proved that I was better prepared than Lochte," Kawecki said, adding it felt "great to be better than a world record holder."

Lochte broke the world record in the 100 IM with a time of 50.71 in the semifinals at Sinan Erdem Arena on Saturday, eclipsing the mark set by Peter Mankoc of Slovenia in December 2009. On Friday, the American broke the world record in the 200 IM. □



GRAND VICTORIA BAR & RESTAURANT
SPECIALIZE IN CHINESE AND INTERNATIONAL CUISINE



Located at the Palm Beach #184 near the traffic lights opposite the high-rise hotel, walking distance from the hotels. We have the best prices on all of our cuisines. **Call: 586-4481**

UNICASA SUPERMARKET

unicasa
Palm Beach #184 • Tel: (297) 586-8540
Open hours: Monday - Saturday 8am - 12midnight
Saturday 8am - 10pm

Has everything that you need for a good vacation. We have a wide variety of liquors and wine, beach items and much more.



Calderon's triple-double helps Raptors top Rockets

The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) - Add tight defense to a triple-double, and it was quite a game for Jose Calderon.

Calderon had 18 points, 14 assists, and 10 rebounds to lead short-handed Toronto over the Houston Rockets 103-96 Sunday, giving the Raptors consecutive wins for the first time in eight long months.

Calderon started for the third straight game in place of the injured Kyle Lowry, who has a tear in his right triceps.

The 31-year-old Spanish guard, who's the longest serving Raptor, has been a perennial backup in Toronto.

"I made up my mind, I want to be the most professional player in the NBA. I don't know if I'm going to be on the court or not but I want this team to win," he said.

"This is my team, this is what I've been doing for eight years now, and that's what I do. I know my teammates know that, there's the trust behind it, it's really comfortable to play with these guys," he said.

Calderon also held Rockets guard Jeremy Lin to just seven points and two assists.

"Huge," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said of Calderon's game. "He's a solid pro. I love him, he's going to win a lot of basketball games for you. Defensively, he did a solid job on Lin. I just can't say enough about Jose."

The Rockets have now lost seven straight on the road, a stretch that goes back to Nov. 2. It's their worst road losing streak since they dropped eight straight in 2001.

Toronto Raptors' Jose Calderon (8) reacts after missing a free throw against the Houston Rockets in the last second of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, in Toronto. The Raptors won 103-96.
Associated Press



"It was a disappointing one," Lin said. "We obviously didn't get the win and I don't think we played particularly well. Not the best feeling."

Lin had plenty of fans in the Air Canada Centre crowd cheering him on. He was in the midst of "Linsanity" on a previous trip to Toronto last February, draining a 3 at the buzzer to lead the New York Knicks to a victory over the Raptors.

The Raptors played their third consecutive game without second- and third-leading scorers Andrea Bargnani and Lowry. Bargnani is out indefinitely with a torn ligament in his right elbow and a strained right wrist, while Lowry has a tear in his right triceps.

Alan Anderson had 24 points, while DeMar DeRozan added 19 points for the Raptors, who hadn't won consecutive games since April 13 and 15 of last season.

Ed Davis added 13 points for Toronto.

James Harden scored 28 points for the Rockets, while Marcus Morris added 19.

The Raptors took a 77-71 lead into the fourth quarter, and stretched their advantage to nine points. But Houston made for some tense moments late in the game, cutting Toronto's lead to four points with a couple of minutes to go. □

Gold Coast Aruba... A Place for You!

Please call for a
FREE pick-up!

Open week days
from 8am - 5pm.

Saturday and Sunday
on appointment only.



3 minutes drive to
Arashi Beach



Across an 18-hole
Golf Course

Luxury Villas, Town Homes & Condos

Contact us by email at info@goldcoastaruba.com
Tel: +297-586-2200 • Fax: +297-586-2201
Toll Free from the U.S. 1-866-978-5770
www.goldcoastaruba.com

PRICE STARTING FROM \$289,000

Visit us for Your Island Dream Home Ownership

Monthly Mortgage Payments
starting from \$1,650



Gold Coast
Malmok • Aruba

Sunday's NFL Capsules

Packers clinch NFC North with 21-13 win over Bears

CHICAGO (AP) — The Green Bay Packers clinched their second straight NFC North title with a 21-13 victory over the archrival Chicago Bears on Sunday.

James Jones caught all three touchdown passes thrown by the Packers' Aaron Rodgers. Green Bay has now won six straight in the NFL's oldest — and fiercest — rivalry.

The Packers (10-4) have won 12 straight against NFC North opponents, the longest streak in the NFL.

Brandon Marshall had a 15-yard TD catch for the Bears, who have lost five of six and are in danger of missing the playoffs after beginning the year 7-1. Clay Matthews continued his torture of Jay Cutler with two sacks, and Alshon Jeffery hurt the Bears (8-6) with three offensive pass interference calls late in the second half.

TEXANS 29, COLTS 17

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans are AFC South champions for the second straight year.

Andre Johnson had 151 yards receiving and a touchdown, Bryan Braman scored on a blocked punt and Shayne Graham kicked five field goals.

The Texans (12-2) grabbed their first AFC South title last season after the Colts nosedived without injured quarterback Peyton Manning. Manning is gone and Andrew Luck couldn't do much against Houston's defense.

The Colts (9-5) had won three straight and needed a win to clinch a playoff berth a year after going 2-14.

J.J. Watt had three sacks as Houston's defense got back on track a week after a 42-14 loss to New England.

The Texans will have home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs in they win out.

REDSKINS 38, BROWNS 21

CLEVELAND (AP) — Rookie Kirk Cousins threw for 329 yards and two touchdowns filling in for injured star Rob-



Green Bay Packers running back Ryan Grant (25) is tackled by Chicago Bears linebacker Nick Roach (53) in the first half of an NFL football game in Chicago, Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012.

Associated Press

ert Griffin III, leading Washington to its fifth straight win.

Cousins connected with Leonard Hankerson for both TDs in his first career start and the Redskins (8-6) barely missed a beat without the talented and multi-dimensional RG3, who sat out with a sprained knee. Last week, Cousins came off the bench after Griffin got hurt. Cousins was behind center from the start of this one and delivered a performance that extended Washington's longest winning streak since 2007 and moved the Redskins into a tie for first in the NFC East.

Rookie Trent Richardson had a pair of TD runs for the Browns (5-9).

VIKINGS 36, RAMS 22

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Adrian Peterson ran for a season-best 212 yards, including an 82-yard touchdown that fueled the Minnesota's big second quarter.

Peterson has 1,812 yards rushing, leaving him 294 shy of breaking the NFL's single-season record of 2,105 by Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams in 1984. Peterson, less than a year removed from a serious knee injury, has two games left — at Houston and home against Green Bay — to top Dickerson.

The Vikings (8-6) scored 10 of their 23 points in the second quarter off turnovers by Sam Bradford, including a 29-yard interception return by defensive end Everson Griffen.

The Rams fell to 6-7-1.

FALCONS 34, GIANTS 0

ATLANTA (AP) — Matt Ryan threw three touchdowns passes and Atlanta handed the Giants their first regular-season shutout since 1996.

Julio Jones caught a couple of scoring throws from Ryan, who broke his own franchise records for completions and passing yards in a season. He finished 23 of 28 for 270 yards.

The Falcons (12-2), who have already clinched the NFC South, moved a step closer to locking up home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs. One more win would lock it up.

Eli Manning threw two interceptions for New York (8-6), which came into the game with a one-game lead over Washington and Dallas in the NFC East.

BRONCOS 34, RAVENS 17

BALTIMORE (AP) — Chris Harris returned an interception 98 yards for a momentum-turning touchdown, and Denver won its ninth straight.

Peyton Manning threw for

204 yards and a score in his ninth consecutive win against Baltimore, the first with the Broncos (11-3).

Down 10-0 late in the first half, the Ravens had a first-and-goal at the Denver 4 when Harris stepped in front of Anquan Boldin, picked off a pass by Joe Flacco and sprinted down the right sideline en route to the longest regular-season interception return in Broncos history.

The Ravens (9-5) were playing their first game under offensive coordinator Jim Caldwell, who replaced the fired Cam Cameron.

SEAHAWKS 50, BILLS 17

TORONTO (AP) — Seattle rookie quarterback Russell Wilson ran for three touchdowns and threw for another in leading the Seahawks to their second straight rout.

Wilson scored on runs of 14, 25 and 4 yards and then hit Zach Miller for a 4-yard touchdown in helping the Seahawks score 31 points on their first five possessions. The defense forced three consecutive turnovers to start the second half, including Earl Thomas scoring on 57-yard interception return.

A week after a 58-0 win at home against Arizona, the Seahawks (9-5) inched closer to clinching a playoff berth and became the NFL's third team to score 50 points on consecutive weekends. The Bills (5-9) were knocked out of playoff contention for a 13th consecutive season.

COWBOYS 27, STEELERS 24 OT

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Brandon Carr intercepted a pass from Ben Roethlisberger to set up Dan Bailey's 21-yard field goal in overtime.

The Cowboys won a Bailey kick on the final play for the second straight week since practice squad linebacker Jerry Brown was killed in a one-car accident that led to manslaughter charges against teammate Josh Brent.

Carr intercepted Roethlisberger's pass along the

sideline and returned it 36 yards to the 1. Bailey's kick came after Tony Romo took a 2-yard loss to put the kicker in better position.

The Cowboys (8-6) moved into a three-way tie for the NFC East lead with the Giants and Redskins. The Steelers (7-7) lost for the fourth time in five games.

CARDINALS 31, LIONS 10

GLENDALE, Arizona (AP) — Greg Toler returned an interception 102 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown as Arizona ended a nine-game losing streak.

The Cardinals (5-9) intercepted Matthew Stafford three times, returning two for touchdowns and setting up a TD with the other. The Lions (4-10) lost their sixth straight. Rashad Johnson brought back a pick 53 yards for a touchdown to cap Arizona's 21-point second quarter. Patrick Peterson's interception set up another score.

Detroit's Calvin Johnson became the first player in NFL history with consecutive 1,600-yard receiving seasons and tied an NFL record with his seventh straight 100-yard receiving game.

PANTHERS 31, CHARGERS 7

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Mike Tolbert scored twice against his former team and DeAngelo Williams turned a tipped pass from Cam Newton into a 45-yard touchdown reception.

Carolina (5-9) won consecutive games for the first time since last December. The loss knocked the Chargers out of playoff contention for the third straight year.

The Chargers (5-9) clinched their first losing season since 2003, when they were an NFL-worse 4-12. Coach Norv Turner is expected to be fired at season's end, most likely along with general manager A.J. Smith.

Tolbert capped Carolina's first two drives with 1-yard scoring runs. His second TD was set up when Philip Rivers lost a fumble, his 21st turnover this season and 46th in less than two full seasons. □



SNUBA and Snorkel Sail \$65

Snorkeling only \$32.50

Tues & Thur 9 - 12 am or 1 - 4 pm
Wed & Fri 9 - 12 am or 12:30 - 3:30 pm
Fruit and soft drinks included

\$10 OFF
PER COUPLE
WITH DIRECT
BOOKINGS

For reservation call 586-0096

Leaving from: Pier between Moomba Beach and Marriott Resort



NHL lawsuit assigned to former federal prosecutor

By By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) —

The NHL's lawsuit against its players was assigned to a relatively new federal judge who is a long-time New York Yankees fan and a former federal prosecutor.

The sides didn't talk Sunday, the 92nd day of a lockout that is threatening to wipe out an entire NHL season for the second time in nine years. NHL players started voting on whether to have their union give up collective bargaining rights, a "disclaimer of interest" that could be a precursor to an antitrust suit.

The league argued in a 43-page suit Friday in federal court in Manhattan that the union's actions were a bargaining maneuver and asked that the lockout be declared legal. The case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer, who joined the bench in July 2011.

The 51-year-old is a graduate of Horace Mann School, Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

He spent a year between college and graduate school as a reporter for The Wall Street Journal. After clerking for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, he had two stints in the U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan, rising to chief of the major crimes unit. He also worked in the Solicitor General's office in Washington, D.C.

One of his more prominent cases occurred in 1999, when he led the prosecution of Lawrence X. Cusack III, convicted on 13 counts on mail and wire fraud stemming from the sale of forged documents claiming President

John F. Kennedy paid hush money to keep secret an affair with Marilyn Monroe. Cusack was sentenced to 10 years, 3 months in prison and ordered to pay \$7 million restitution.

Two years earlier, Engelmayer prosecuted a Los Angeles woman, Autumn Jackson, who was convicted of conspiracy and crossing state lines to commit a crime for threatening to tell tabloids she was Bill Cosby's out-of-wedlock child unless he paid her \$40 million. Jackson was sentenced to 26 months in prison. Cosby denied he was Jackson's father but admitted having an affair with her mother and providing more than \$100,000 in financial support.

Engelmayer worked from 2000-11 with the New York law firm now known as WilmerHale before he was nominated for the bench by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate.

In his most notable deci-



Matt Duchene from Colorado Avalanche plays the puck during his first training with HC Ambri Piotta, Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012, in Biasca, Switzerland. Canadian Matt Duchene, is another NHL lockout player to play in the Swiss hockey league.

Associated Press

sion thus far, Engelmayer ruled a provocative ad that equates Muslim radicals with savages is protected speech under the First Amendment. New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority initially refused to run the ad, saying it was "demeaning."

YOUR TICKET TO EVERY GAME



Your Local Bar situated at Noord

House Specials * Local Prices

DECEMBER 2012

MLB PLAYOFFS / NCAA - Season

EVERY SUNDAY ALL NFL GAMES

NBA - SEASON



BUSHIRI
KARTING SPEEDWAY
HIGH SPEED RENTAL KARTS
30 MPH
9 Horse Power
0.8 Mile Professional
Outdoor Track

BRING THIS AD & GET \$3 OFF ON YOUR 2ND RIDE & \$8 off your 3rd Ride Plus 1 Free Soda

Rent Go Karts for \$18

5835278 From: 10am - 6:30pm Behind Ling & Sons supermarket

www.VianaHeal.com
vianaheal@gmail.com



TEL: 585-1270

Get the Point!
Dr. Carlos Viana,
Oriental Medicine, Clinical Nutrition, Colon Hydro Therapy

Kibaima 7, St. Cruz
Opposite the Drive-in
Disposable Needles

viana
HEALING CENTER

A Biocompatible,
Age-Management Clinic

Pain, Allergy, Chronic colds & flu, Fertility, Menopause, Sleep, Stomach,
Stress, Detox, Addiction (Alcohol, street & legal Drugs, Gambling, Sex, Weight control)...

Books

101
GREAT WAYS
TO IMPROVE
YOUR
HEALTH

Co-authored by
Carlos Viana

**PRESCRIPTIONS
from
PARADISE**

Newly Released!

Mental health toll emerges among Sandy survivors

KATIE ZEZIMA
MEGHAN BARR
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The image of his brother trapped in a car with water rising to his neck, his eyes silently pleading for help, is part of a recurring nightmare that wakes Anthony Gatti up, screaming, at night. Gatti hauled his brother out of the car just in time, saving his life at the height of Superstorm Sandy. The two men rode out the hurricane in their childhood Staten Island home and survived. But weeks afterward, Gatti still hasn't moved on. Now he's living in a tent in the backyard, burning pieces of furniture as firewood, refusing to leave until the place is demolished. Day and night, he is haunted by memories of the storm. "My mind don't let me get past the fact that I can't get him out of the car. And I know I did," Gatti said, squeezing his eyes tightly shut at the memory. "But my mind don't let me think that. My mind tells me I couldn't save him, he

dies."

As communities battered by Sandy clear away the physical wreckage, a new crisis is emerging: the mental and emotional trauma that storm victims, including children, have endured. The extent of the problem is difficult to measure, as many people are too anxious to even leave their homes, wracked by fears of wind and water and parting from their loved ones. Others are too busy dealing with losses of property and livelihood to deal with their grief. To tackle the problem, government officials are dispatching more than 1,000 crisis counselors to the worst-hit areas in New York and New Jersey, helping victims begin the long work of repairing Sandy's emotional damage. Counselors are assuring people that anxiety and insomnia are natural after a disaster. But when the trauma starts to interfere with daily life, it's probably time to seek help. And in a pattern that played out in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast



In this file photo of Nov. 20, 2012 photo, Anthony Gatti makes a call while resting in a tent where he is living in the Midland Beach section of the Staten Island borough of New York.

Associated Press

after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, symptoms may only get worse as victims transition from the initial shock to the disillusionment phase of the recovery. "Folks are starting to realize that they may be in this for the long haul," said Eric Hierholzer, a commander in the U.S. Public Health Service. "And things aren't necessarily going to get better tomorrow or next week." At St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, the psychiatry department has recorded a 20

percent increase in walk-in patients since the storm hit, with residents reporting the whole gamut of stress-related symptoms. Anxiety. Insomnia. Panic attacks. The Rockaways — along the Atlantic shoreline in the borough of Queens — was among the areas hardest hit by Sandy. Local schools have referred 25 percent more children than usual to the hospital's outpatient mental health programs. "The children are very, very traumatized," said Fern Zagor, who runs the Staten

Island Mental Health Society. "They have a hard time making sense of this sudden change in their world. It's frightening to them."

A 5-year-old girl who was pulled from floodwaters clinging to her father hasn't been able to attend kindergarten since the storm, Zagor said, because she's too traumatized to be parted from him now. An 11-year-old boy is working with counselors after floating in water up to his neck on the second floor of his home for several hours before being rescued.

"This child has said he worries about rain," Zagor said. "He worries about whether he'll ever want to swim in a swimming pool again."

The society is among many mental health providers who are working with Project Hope, a New York crisis counseling program funded by an \$8.2 million Federal Emergency Management Agency grant that has just begun sending counselors to local communities. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office estimates the program will help more than 200,000 people. Project Hope Counselor Yomira Natera has been seeking out storm victims who don't speak English as their first language. "We've seen an increase in substance abuse with folks who may have language barriers," she said. "Who may be frustrated with the system, who find it difficult to communicate."

At least 20,000 people have so far made contact with counselors from the New Jersey Hope and Healing Program, which has dispatched hundreds of state-trained disaster crisis response counselors into the storm zone. □

Practice for Advanced Dentistry

Dr. H. Marsman and Dr. D. Vega

Do you visit Aruba regularly ?

Do you own a second home, timeshare or condominium?

Make us your primary dentist !

From basic to advanced dentistry including cosmetic dentistry, teeth whitening, reconstruction and implants for much better prices than in the USA.

European-trained dentists with years of experience!

Bring this add and receive 10% discount on your panoramic x-ray when making your individually tailored treatment plan!

Call 587-3096 / 587-3091 or e-mail pad@setarnet.aw for an appointment. Driving directions: Just ask ask anyone for the "big tooth" sign at Bubali 11-M

www.dentistaruba.com

BENLO CIGARS
Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555
Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper,
Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.

We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.
Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm
Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.
With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR

Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!

Roberto's
Watersports

3 hours sailing & Snorkeling on the
SEA-VENTURE

INCL. • Light lunch
• Open bar
• Clean equipment

24 persons max.
Location: Moomba Beach

Only
\$35

Tel: 592-2859

NY Times jumps into mini digital book market

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The New York Times is getting into the business of selling bite-sized digital books based on its reporters' work, giving it entree into a growing market for inexpensive "e-singles" that can be read in a couple of hours.

The Times' first mini book will go on sale Monday. It's an 18,000-word piece about skiers caught in an avalanche by Times reporter John Branch. The story, called "Snow Fall," expands on an upcoming piece in Monday's newspaper.

It will sell for \$2.99 in Amazon.com's Kindle store, Apple's iBooks, and on Barnes & Noble's Nook.

E-singles fall somewhere between magazine pieces, which can top out at around 10,000 words, and full-length books, which can run around 100,000 words.

The product meets the rising demand for content as people buy tablet computers like the iPad and Kindle Fire in increasing numbers. IHS expects global shipments of tablets to hit 120 million this year, just two short years after the iPad jumpstarted the category in April 2010. Tablet shipments are expected to hit 340 million in 2016.

And people aren't just watching movies and surfing the Web on their mobile devices. The Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism said in October that half of U.S. adults own a tablet or smartphone, and two thirds of them get news on their device.

The quick turnaround of digital publishing means non-fiction work remains timely.

Gerald Marzorati, the Times' editor for editorial development, said the company is betting the new format will make long-form journalism easy to read and reach people who don't visit the Times' website or read the

newspaper.

"We're going to really experiment in the first year with different sorts of forms — long essays, long narratives," he said. "We may even try collections. We're just sort of experimenting with this form and we'll see if getting something at a very reasonable price in book form is something that appeals to people."

Amazon is considered the pioneer of the short-format digital book. It launched Kindle Singles in January 2011. In September this year, it said it had sold 3.5 million Kindle Singles so far. Others have followed suit. Apple calls the format Quick Reads and Barnes & Noble calls them Nook Snaps. The Times is partnering with one of the early innovators in the space, a San Francisco startup called Byliner Inc., which has published nearly 50 short-form titles in its 16-month existence.

Among its hits are "Lifeboat No. 8," a story about the sinking of the Titanic by Elizabeth Kaye and Jon Krakauer's "Three Cups of Deceit." Kaye's book made its way to the top of the New York Times e-book bestseller list.

Two of Byliner's cofounders, John Tayman and Mark Bryant, both worked previously as editors at The New York Times Sports Magazine, making the pair an easy pick as the newspaper's inaugural partners.

Byliner has published the work of Times reporters before, including Jonathan Mahler, a New York Times Magazine writer who wrote "Death Comes to Happy Valley" about Joe Paterno and the sexual abuse scandal at Penn State.

"We're a company that values great writing and great writers, as does the Times," said Tayman. "It's a perfect combination for us both." In addition to new original work, the Times is mining its archives to create curated selections of articles assembled into mini e-book narratives about a

topic or event, a product it's calling TimesFiles. For that offering, it is partnering with Vook, another start-up, based in New York, to publish 25 titles on Monday such as "The Life and Writing of Nora Ephron" and "George Steinbrenner and the Yankees." □



Jenna Dewan-Tatum is seen with Microsoft Surface at Microsoft All Access Holiday Party on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012, in Venice, Calif. Associated Press



From November 19th to December 28th
send money with Western Union and you will be able to
participate automatically in a sweepstake for a chance to
win a prize this holiday!

PROMOTION
PRIZES
INCLUDE

A 46" Flat Screen TV (Smart TV)

iPhone® 4S Smartphone

A Sony® Digital Camera

post aruba

Authorized Agent of Western Union

WESTERN
UNION

moving money for better

Sponsor: Post Aruba, Authorized Agent of Western Union. Promotion dates 11/19/12 through 12/28/12. Official Rules available at participating Agent locations. Apple and Sony are not participants or sponsors of this promotion. © 2012 Western Union Holdings, Inc. All Rights Reserved. All other logos, trademarks, service marks and trade names referenced in this material are the property of their respective owners.



*Celebrating our 25th anniversary with YOU!
Present this Ad receive \$20 discount per couple*

- Champagne Brunch
- Sunset Cruise
- Sail & Snorkel
- Beach & Cave Tour
- Wet'n Wild- Jeep Tour

Pelican Pier (between Holiday Inn and Playa Linda Resort), Holiday Inn Towel Hut Center, Holiday Inn Concierge, Holiday Inn Lobby, Westin Aruba Poolside, Westin Aruba Lower Lobby, Casa Del Mar Beach Resort.

Or book online at www.pelican-aruba.com



For reservation call:
5872302 or 5861455 (Sundays)

China to maintain prudent monetary policy in 2013

JOE McDONALD

AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's new Communist Party leaders promised Sunday to be ready to spend more if needed to shore up a shaky economic recovery and pledged more market-opening reforms.

In the first statement of their economic goals, the leadership wrapped up a two-day planning meeting by pledging continuity with earlier party plans aimed at making China's economy more productive and spreading prosperity to its poor. They gave no indication of plans for major changes.

The world's second-largest economy is gradually pulling out of its deepest slump since the 2008 global crisis, but weaker-than-expected November trade data prompted suggestions the rebound might be faltering. The leadership under party General Secretary Xi Jinping pledged a "proactive fiscal policy" and "prudent monetary policy" in a statement distributed by the official Xinhua News Agency,



A Christmas season poster is on display outside a fashion boutique as an employee, right, waits for customers at a shopping mall in Beijing Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012.

Associated Press

referring to willingness to boost spending if needed and keep credit easy so long as inflation stays low. Xi and other leaders who were installed last month in a once-a-decade handover of power are under pressure to overhaul an economic model based on exports and investment that delivered 30 years of rapid growth but is running out of steam.

The World Bank and other

analysts say Beijing needs to curb dominant state companies and promote service industries and consumer spending to keep incomes rising. They say without prompt action, growth might slow abruptly, leaving China stuck at middle-income levels.

Companies, investors and political analysts are watching to see how far Xi and others on the seven-member ruling Standing Com-

mittee are willing to go to change the state-dominated economy. They face potential opposition from state companies that might be hurt by changes and have influential allies in the party.

"If China does not change its strategy, it risks falling into the 'middle income trap'," Robert Zoellick, former World Bank president, said in a speech at a Beijing business conference last week. The new leadership affirmed support for earlier party pledges to promote reform, open markets further and encourage economic efficiency. The statement promised to "accelerate structural reform" but gave no details of how far or how fast Xi and other leaders are willing to go in changing the state-dominated economy.

Economic growth fell to a three-and-a-half-year low of 7.4 percent in the three months ended Sept. 30. Factory output, consumer spending and other indicators are improving in the current quarter but

analysts say a recovery is likely to be gradual and too weak to drive a global rebound without improvement in Europe and the United States.

Data last week showed November trade deteriorated sharply following a rebound that started in August. Export growth plunged to 2.9 percent over a year earlier from October's 11.6 percent. Imports were flat, down from October's 2.4 percent growth. Sunday's statement gave no indication the leadership plans to depart from the party's official annual economic growth target of 7.5 percent through 2015.

The statement promised to "fully deepen reforms" and "firmly promote opening up" next year. It said "enhancing quality and efficiency of economic growth" will be a "central task."

It promised to support the orderly growth of cities, a key element in raising incomes by allowing migrants from the countryside to look for better-paid urban jobs. □

NEED CASH TODAY?

PAWN OR SELL YOUR GOLD



VISIT US & COMPARE FOR YOURSELF!



JUWELENHUISJE

OPEN 10AM - 6PM MONDAY - FRIDAY



ORANJESTAD WERFSTRAAT 7 LOK. 12 TEL 588 4141 SAN NICOLAS B. V/D VEEN ZEPPENFELDSTRAAT 14 TEL 584 4141

Bavaria

German Restaurant



Palm Beach 186, next to Wendy's
Phone 736-4007

info@bavaria-aruba.com

Located within very short walking distance of Highrise Hotels.

AUTHENTIC GERMAN COOKING AND 40 DIFFERENT GERMAN BIER!

Schnitzel, Weisswurst, Bratwurst,
Sauerbraten, Spaetzle, Pork Shank
with Sauerkraut, Kids entrees and
much much more ...

OPEN MON. - SAT. FROM 5PM, SUNDAY CLOSED!

Massive Napa do-over prompts grape plant shortage

By Tracie Cone
Associated press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Napa Valley, one of the world's premier wine growing regions, has an uncommon problem these days: not enough new grapevine root stock is available to supply the massive replanting that's under way there. A trifecta of developments has created the critical shortage:

Aging cabernet vines planted after a deadly phylloxera outbreak in the 1980s are due for replacement that was deferred for years as sales of premium wines slumped in the recession.

With demand again strong, growers are taking the opportunity to replace old vines with varieties and clones better suited for their microclimates. Others are reconfiguring rows to prevent erosion into sensitive streams, or to allow mechanical harvesting machinery to access vines. All of this activity caught commercial nurseries across California short of supply. Some are sold out for 2013 and are taking orders for 2014 and beyond. "I've never seen anything like this," said Michael Monette of Sunridge Nurseries, one of the industry's biggest suppliers of plants. "What's totally phenomenal for me is I'm focusing on 2014 and 2015, which is absolutely nuts. We have no more space in our greenhouses."

Napa Valley, an hour's drive northeast of San Francisco, caught the world's attention in 1976 when, to the shock and chagrin of the French, wines from Stag's Leap and Chateau Montelena won the Paris



In this photo taken Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012 is a vineyard that was grafted with Cabernet Sauvignon earlier this year at Trefethen Family Vineyards in Napa, Calif.

Associated Press

Wine Tasting. The ensuing rush to plant was cut short when the rootstock that most new growers used was not fully resistant to the root-eating phylloxera pest. Nearly two-thirds of the vines there slowly died, and vineyard owners yanked millions of plants beginning around 1990 then spent \$1.2 billion replacing them. That replanting of new clones on more resistant rootstock are the vines on which the Napa Valley's current reputation for excellence was sealed. Today wines from Napa Valley's 16 sub-appellations are some of the most complex and priciest produced. After 20 years, however, plants reach old age and yields begin to diminish in a region where a ton of grapes can fetch \$4,500 or more.

Growers routinely replace plants, but the convergence of events has created an urgency that prompted the Napa Valley Grapegrowers to gather

experts last week to talk about planning, plant financing and even preventing erosion during the process in a region of sensitive habitat.

"The defining feature of this movement is the scale at which it is taking place," said Jennifer Putnam, executive director of the association. "That nurseries are sold out is unprecedented. That an industry is reinvesting in itself right now is a sure sign we're coming out of the recession."

Mondavi alone is in the process of planting 1.5 million new vines, she said. One vineyard management company alone removed 8,000 acres this year.

"A lot has changed since the phylloxera replanting," said Putnam. "We've learned more about the soil, and what varieties might be better suited for a site, maybe the row orientation should change. We're at the beginning of a wave of change."

While grapes can grow by

simply planting a cane in the ground, those plants will not be resistant to pests and disease. Nurseries graft European vines onto native North American grape plant roots, which are naturally resistant to phylloxera. Botanists further tweak rootstocks to resist local pests and disease, or to control the vigor of the vines.

"It has been 23 years since 1990, so that's a lot of acreage coming due," said Jon Ruel, chief operating officer at the 480-acre Trefethen Family Vineyard in Napa Valley's Oak Knoll District. "Growers were quiet for a number of years, but now we have a lot more optimism."

WACKY WAHOOS

PALM BEACH #33-A WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM

STEAK, SEAFOOD, B.B.Q. & FUN!

Ex-Hadicurari BBQ & Grill with the same owner's. We do our own daily fishing so we serve the freshest seafood on the Island.

Very reasonable price, exciting menu and NO SERVICE CHARGE

Dinner from 5:30 - 10:00

Monday - Saturday



FRESH CATCH & SEAFOOD

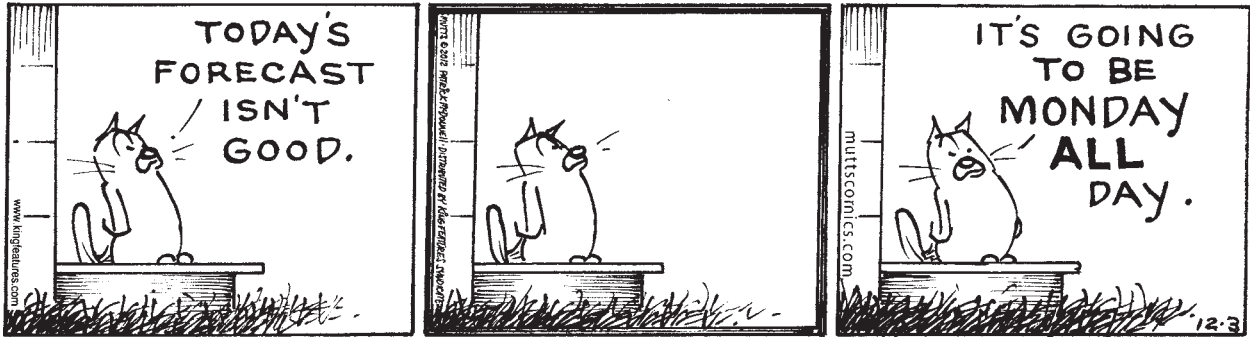
We are located close to the High-rise hotel's at walking distance.

RESERVATION REQUIRED

TEL: 586-7333



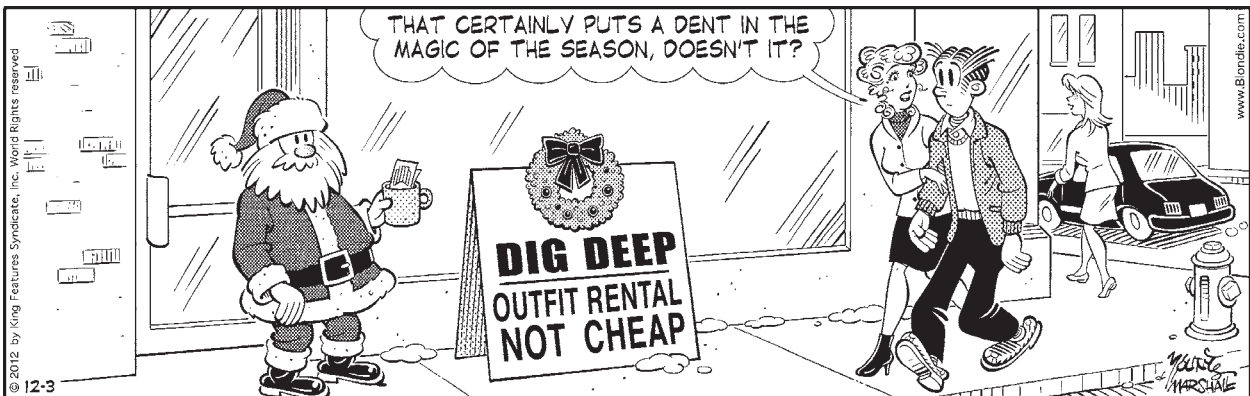
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				5		2		
		5	4	6		3		
	6		3			1		8
	4	8		1				
2	1						4	3
				9		8	7	
4		1			5		9	
	3			4	8	6		
		7		3				

Difficulty Level ★

12/03

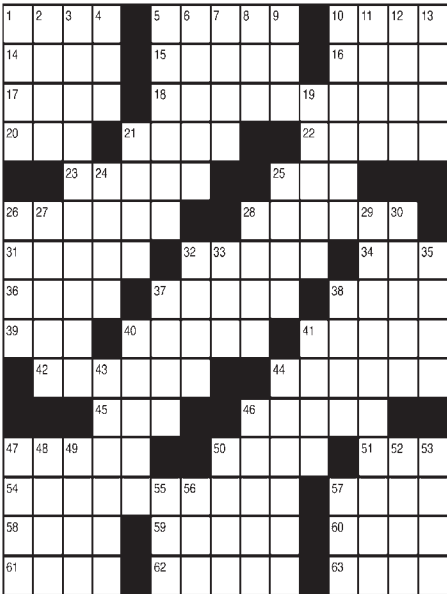
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

7	8	2	3	5	9	4	1	6
3	1	9	2	4	6	8	7	5
4	6	5	7	1	8	2	9	3
1	2	3	9	7	4	5	6	8
6	7	8	5	3	2	1	4	9
9	5	4	8	6	1	3	2	7
2	3	7	4	9	5	6	8	1
5	4	1	6	8	7	9	3	2
8	9	6	1	2	3	7	5	4

ACROSS

- 1 Impolite
- 5 Move stealthily
- 10 Surgery memento
- 14 Bullring cheers
- 15 Forbidden
- 16 Gray wolf
- 17 Small bills
- 18 At first
- 20 Mothers
- 21 Stir-fry pans
- 22 Mountains of South America
- 23 United States Marine
- 25 White ; termite
- 26 Molds; forms
- 28 Hoses down
- 31 Reddy or Hunt
- 32 Temperamental
- 34 Soft wet soil
- 36 Nation in the Middle East
- 37 Tour leader
- 38 Rider's fee
- 39 "All that glitters is gold"
- 40 Actress Berry
- 41 Stove
- 42 Discussion of pros and cons
- 44 Main sport in England
- 45 Recline
- 46 Singer LaBelle
- 47 TV's Paula
- 50 one's time; wait patiently
- 51 Item in a set of cookware
- 54 with; write to
- 57 Coffee
- 58 Sixty minutes
- 59 Give a speech
- 60 Thing; article
- 61 TV show award
- 62 Mike or Cicely
- 63 Trait transmitter



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/3/12

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

YOU		AORTA		STAB
INTO		GROAN		HERE
PEAR		RABBI		ORES
SHAMELESS		GNAT		
	TOES	EMU		
STAIRS		BOTANIST		
COLON		BRUTE		RHO
AKIN		CAUSE		LIED
REV		ELECT		POSED
ENERGIZE		EIGHTY		
	WON	PANG		
INCA		CHRISTINA		
DEAN		HAUNT		NODS
LEAD		ELITE		GAZA
EDNA		SENIOR		HEN

© 2012 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

12/3/12

DOWN

- 1 Kitchen or den
- 2 Arm bone
- 3 Decrease in size or scope
- 4 Suffix for host or count
- 5 Bends down
- 6 Songbirds
- 7 Wading bird
- 8 Egg drink
- 9 Pond fish
- 10 Leans
- 11 Freezing
- 12 Competent
- 13 Rogers & Clark
- 19 Female goat
- 21 Architect Christopher
- 24 Unlock
- 25 Helper
- 26 Part of the leg
- 27 Ruler who ordered John the Baptist beheaded
- 28 off; galloped away
- 29 Set free
- 30 Sudden increase
- 32 Stubborn as a
- 33 Liquid grease
- 35 Stag or doe
- 37 Fence opening

- 38 In ; truly
- 40 Ethiopia's Selassie
- 41 Learn by ; memorize
- 43 Fuzzy; obscure
- 44 Depress
- 46 Popular 1970s Ford model
- 47 Pain
- 48 Explosive noise
- 49 Tom-tom, e.g.
- 50 Deadly snakes
- 52 Microwave
- 53 Make gentle
- 55 Tipsy one
- 56 Use a crowbar
- 57 Irish dance

Diet Pepsi quietly changes sweetener

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Diet Pepsi is quietly changing its sweetener ahead of a major rebranding of the soft drink set for next month.

The change comes as PepsiCo Inc. looks to reinvigorate its namesake brands after losing market share to Coca-Cola Co. in recent years. Cans of Diet Pepsi around the country now list a mix of two artificial sweeteners, a pairing that is commonly found in newer diet sodas. Previously, Diet Pepsi used only aspartame, which is sensitive to heat and breaks down more easily. This summer, PepsiCo had declined to say whether it would go ahead with such a change after reports surfaced that it was testing the new sweeteners. Although the switch is only intended to help prevent the taste from degrading over time, companies are often sensitive to public perceptions that they might be tinkering with major brands. PepsiCo executives likely don't want to call any attention to the use of artificial sweeteners

in the drink either. When reached for comment Sunday, PepsiCo spokeswoman Andrea Canabal said that Diet Pepsi using the new sweetener mix started hitting shelves in early December. She said the new mix will be more widely available in the coming weeks. "It's not like a light switch. It'll start appearing as shelf space clears," she said. In January, Canabal said the company is planning a major ad campaign that will include a new logo with a heart and the theme "Love Every Sip." The sweetener change will not be explicitly communicated in the ads, which will feature actress Sofia Vergara. In addition to aspartame, cans of Diet Pepsi found in New York, Omaha, Nebraska, and the San Francisco Bay Area now list acesulfame potassium as an ingredient. The ingredient is often used in combination with other artificial sweeteners and can be found in a wide range of foods including baked goods, chewing gum and gelatin desserts. John Sicher, editor and publish-



er of the industry tracker Beverage Digest, said the synergistic effect of mixing the two sweeteners is intended to help keep the drink's sweetening power at a constant level, making it taste fresh longer. "A

change in sweetener does not change the flavor," he noted. PepsiCo said in a statement Sunday that it was adding a "very small amount" of acesulfame potassium "to ensure consistency with every sip."

Classifieds

VACATION SPECIAL

wk 50 La Cabana
Dec. 16-23 \$750
wk 51 Aruba Beach Club
Dec. 22-29 \$900
wk 52 Paradise Villas
Dec. 29-Jan 5 \$750
wk 1 Casa del Mar
Jan 5 -12 \$1300
Tel. 583-4403 / 560-3297

197976a



Caribbean Palm Village Resort

Sale Weeks 51 and 52

Good Selection Still Available

Come Visit or Contact

Sales.Cpv@hotmail.com

USA 978 530 6077

Aruba 297 592 0500, or 732 5392

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484
Schotland str. 70

Extend your Stay at
Quality Apartments

*Studio & Loft Apts. *Fully Furnished
*Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV *Swimming Pool
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.
Feel free to contact or visit us.
Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.



Concierge Realty

Beach Villas at Divi Phoenix (NEW)

Wk 7,8,9 1B & 2B units from \$9500

Marriott Aruba Surf Club

Platinum Season

OV \$18k OS \$19k OF \$29k

3 BEDRM \$29k

Plat Plus Holiday 51 OV -\$42k

Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k

GOLD Season

OS \$10k OV \$9500

Oceanfront \$17k

3 BEDRM OV \$17,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Platinum 2B OV \$19k

Oceanfront PLAT \$29k

Platinum 1B OV \$12,500

Gold season 2B OV \$10,000

Oceanfront 2B \$17,000

1B Oceanfront \$9,500

La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club

Preferred Resale Company

ALL summer & fall weeks starting at \$3k

Studio, 1Bdrm & 2Bdrm available.

Costa Linda & Playa Linda inventory

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners.

Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

www.concierge Realty.com

Concierge Realty

Michelle Donato

michelledonato@cfl.rr.com

Licensed Real Estate Broker

888-888-2204 X-101

321-206-6293 Local Florida



If you have interest in selling or Buying ANY timeshare contact us!

Michelle Donato

FOR SALE

Condo in Gold Coast
Everything's included in this 2 Br 2 1/2 bath unit
check it out now at
www.arubarental.info
or call 562-0735 free pick up

113454

FOR RENT

Tropicana Aruba Resort
December 16-23 400awg per week
December 21-28 700awg per week
Call. 661-9823

197977

LA CABANA

Fixed week owners,
protect your interest.
Join FWOA
fwoa1@verizon.net

113141

FOR SALE

Story home, 4 bedroom, 4 bath,
balcony, pool, etc. In front of
Marriott Hotel. More info 594-4953

197963

FOR SALE

Marriott Christmas wk
beautiful 2 bedr, 2 bath
washer/dryer in kitchen, ocean
view sleeps 8 \$45.000
contact 586-4231 or
xtmsriberg@hotmail.com

197975

FOR RENT

(short term rental)

2 bedroom apartment, sleeps
4 walking distance Eagle Beach,
Supermarkets, Golf Course.
\$195.00 a night
Call: 566-6273 / 00297-566-273
E-mail: hmangroelal2@hotmail.com

197974

DOCTOR ON DUTY
ORANJESTAD
17 December
Dr. Velasquez

Pharmacy on duty
ORANJESTAD:
Botica del Pueblo Tel: 582-1253
SAN NICOLAAS:
Botica Centro Medico Tel: 584-5794

Police
Police 581-1100
Oranjestad 582-4000
Noord 587-0009
Sta. Cruz 585-4710
Savaneta 584-7000
San Nicolas 584-5000

Emergency Numbers
Emergency 911
Police 100
Fire Dept. 115
Fire Dept. II 582-1108
Police Tipline 11141
Hospital 527-4000

Oranjestad
Ambulance 582-1234
Police 582-4000

San Nicolas
Ambulance 584-5050
Police Station 584-5000
BGD San Nicolas 584-1606
Valero Security 584-1720

Services
Information 118
Setar 582-5151
Taxi 582-2116
Taxi- Tas 587-5900
Professional Taxi 588-0035
Taxi D.T.S. 587-2300
Service Aruba 583-3232

CRUISE SHIP

17 Amsterdam
18 Prinsendam

Aruba Airport Tel:524-2424
American Airlines Tel: 582-2700
Avianca Tel: 588-0059
Dutch Antilles Tel: 588-1900
Insel Air Tel: 588-9314
Jet Blue Tel: 588-2244
Spirit Airlines Tel: 582-7117
Suriname Airways Tel: 582-7896
Tiara Air Tel: 588-4272
Venezolana Tel: 583-7674

Foundation Fellowship Clinic
Tel: 584-6440
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed
Foundation Anti-Droga Aruba
(FADA) Tel: 583-2999
Foundation Respetami
Tel: 582-4433
Diabetic Foundation Arubano
Tel: 583-3808
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel: 583-8989
Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

AP-GfK Poll: Science doubters say world is warming

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A growing majority of Americans think global warming is occurring, that it will become a serious problem and that the U.S. government should do something about it, a new Associated Press-GfK poll finds.

Even most people who say they do not trust scientists on the environment say temperatures are rising.

The poll found 4 out of every 5 Americans said climate change will be a serious problem for the United States if nothing is done about it. That's up from 73 percent when the same question was asked in 2009. And 57 percent of Americans say the U.S. government should do a great deal or quite a bit about the problem. That's up from 52 percent in 2009. Only 22 percent of those surveyed think little or nothing should be done, a figure that dropped from 25 percent. Overall, 78 percent of those surveyed said they believe temperatures are rising, up from 75 percent three years earlier. In general,



In this Oct. 30 2012 file photo provided by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the South Ferry subway station in New York City is filled with seawater and debris from Superstorm Sandy.
Associated Press

U.S. belief in global warming, according to AP-GfK and other polls, has fluctuated over the years but has stayed between about 70 and 85 percent. The biggest change in the polling is among people who trust scientists only a little or not at all. About 1 in 3 of the people surveyed fell into that category. Within that highly skeptical group, 61 percent now say temperatures have been rising over the past 100 years. That is a substantial increase from 2009, when the AP-GfK poll found that only 47 percent of those with little or no trust in scientists believed the world was getting warmer. This is an important development because, often in the past, opinion about

climate change does not move much in core groups — like those who deny it exists and those who firmly believe it is an alarming problem, said Jon Krosnick, a Stanford University social psychologist and pollster. Krosnick, who consulted with The Associated Press on the poll questions, said the changes the poll shows aren't in the hard-core "anti-warming" deniers, but in the next group, who had serious doubts.

"They don't believe what the scientists say, they believe what the thermometers say," Krosnick said. "Events are helping these people see what scientists thought they had been seeing all along."

Phil Adams, a retired free-

lance photographer, said he was "fairly cynical" about scientists and their theories. But he believes very much in climate change because of what he's seen with his own eyes.

"Having lived for 67 years, we consistently see more and more changes based upon the fact that the weather is warmer," he said. "The seasons are more severe. The climate is definitely getting warmer."

"Storms seem to be more severe," he added. Nearly half, 49 percent, of those surveyed called global warming not just serious but "very serious," up from 42 percent in 2009. More than half, 57 percent, of those surveyed thought the U.S. government should do a great deal or quite a bit about global warming, up from 52 percent three years earlier. But only 45 percent of those surveyed think President Barack Obama will take major action to fight climate change in his second term, slightly more than the 41 percent who don't think he will act.

Overall, the 78 percent who think temperatures are rising is not the highest percentage of Americans who have believed in climate change, according to AP polling. In 2006, less than a year after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, 85 percent thought temperatures were rising. The

lowest point in the past 15 years for belief in warming was in December 2009, after some snowy winters and in the middle of an uproar about climate scientists' emails that later independent investigations found showed no manipulation of data. Broken down by political party, 83 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of Republicans say the world is getting warmer. And 77 percent of independents say temperatures are rising. Among scientists who write about the issue in peer-reviewed literature, the belief in global warming is about 97 percent, according to a 2010 scientific study. About 1 in 4 people surveyed think that efforts to curb global warming would hurt the American economy, a figure down slightly from 27 percent in 2009 when the economy was in worse shape. Just under half, 46 percent, think such action would help the U.S. economy, about the same as said so three years ago. The AP-GfK poll was conducted Nov. 29-Dec. 3 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,002 adults nationwide. Results for the full sample have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points; the margin of error is larger for subgroups. □

PICKERING SPA
Escort & Massage
The best recommended one on the Island!
Anything goes... no rules!
* Choice of the best petite
* Look & feel girls in Aruba
* Special 2 for 1 massage
* Full service massage
* In-and Out-call service
* Delivery in 15 minutes to your hotel
* Free pick-up & Drop-off
* We host Bachelor & Bachelorette Parties
* Airport & Hotel Shuttle and Transfer services
* We accept cash and any credit card.
CALL US AT 566-6669

Honey Dolls
Massage and escort service
Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery 24/7
Serving Men-Couples- Women
All Genders
Red Light Tour
Bachelor Party Specialized
The best in the Caribbean
Call 565-9535

SKY In ARUBA
24 hours Services
Massage Escort
Experience one happy island the way you'll never forget
• Beautiful girls • Serving man • Woman • Couples
• Private Tour Red Light District • Bachelors Party
Rapid Delivery
Cell: 660-4660 In and out call
E-mail: sky_message@hotmail.com

The First & Only Legal One in Aruba Since 1997
Yap Yum
662-2612
arubaescorts@hotmail.com
IN & OUT CALL FREE PICKUP
Safe Tours to the Red Light District with private guide:
A 3 Hours tour includes a FREE Bottle of Wine
Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum
24 Hours Straight Service
7 Days a Week ANYTIME
Massge Service
We service Men, Women & Couples
• We Guarantee
• Quality, Service & Reliability

Jason Mraz tops Myanmar anti-trafficking concert

YADANA HTUN
Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)

— American singer-songwriter Jason Mraz mixed entertainment with education Sunday to become the first world-class entertainer in decades to perform in Myanmar, with a concert to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Mraz's 2008 hit "I'm Yours" was the finale for the nighttime concert before a crowd of about 50,000 people at the base of the famous hilltop Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, the country's biggest city.

Local artists, including a hip-hop singer, also played at the event organized by MTV in cooperation with U.S. and Australian government aid agencies and the anti-slavery organization Walk Free.

Myanmar is emerging from decades of isolation under a reformist elected government that took office last

year after almost five decades of military rule. It has been one of the region's poorest countries, and its bad human rights record made it the target of political and economic sanctions by Western nations. But democratic reforms initiated by President Thein Sein have led to the lifting of most sanctions, and the country is hopeful of a political and economic revival. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy opposition leader, was released from house arrest in late 2010 and won a seat in parliament last April.

Mraz called his top-billed appearance at the concert a "tremendous honor." "I think the country is, at this time, downloading lots of new information from all around the world. I've always wanted my music to be here, (for) hope and celebration, peace, love and happiness. And so I'm

delighted that my music can be a part of this big download that Myanmar is experiencing right now," he said.

Organizers said Mraz was "the first international artist ever to perform at an open-air, mass public concert in Myanmar."

Jazz artists Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Charlie Byrd visited the country under U.S. government sponsorship in the 1970s, when it was still called Burma, but played at much smaller venues.

Many in the crowd queued for two hours before being admitted to the concert site. Yangon native Sann Oo, 31, wearing a white T-shirt with a sketch of Mraz, said he was pleased that Mraz had come and that there would be a broadcast of the event.

"His visit can promote the image of Myanmar, because people outside have been seeing the country



Musician Jason Mraz performs at Z100's Jingle Ball 2012 presented by Aeropostale at Madison Square Garden on Friday Dec. 7, 2012 in New York.
Associated Press

as an insecure place, and poor. Now, they can see how we look like from the concert. It also opens the potential for more concerts by foreign artists," he said. Mraz has a history of involvement with human rights and other social causes. But there was some criticism of his visit by campaigners for Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya commu-

nity, which has been the target of ethnic-based violence this year that has forced scores of thousands from their homes into makeshift refugees camps. They feel Myanmar's government has been complicit in the discrimination, and that Mraz's visit provides it cover with the image of being a defender of human rights. □

Aruhiba Cigars, Aruba's only hand rolled cigars!

t's a matter of prestige and quality...



ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a

perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort

and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.

For a group or private tour, call 586 0347 - 593 6177 or send them an email at aruhibacigars@gmail.com



'Hobbit' bests 'Rings' with \$84.8 million opening

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit" led the box office with a haul of \$84.8 million, a record-setting opening better than the three previous "Lord of the Rings" films.

The Warner Bros. Middle Earth epic was the biggest December opening ever, surpassing Will Smith's "I Am Legend," which opened with \$77.2 million in 2007, according to studio estimates Sunday. "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" also passed the December opening of "Avatar," which opened with \$77 million. Internationally, "The Hobbit" also added \$138.2 million, for an impressive debut well north of \$200 million. Despite weak reviews, the 3-D adaptation of J. R. R. Tolkien's first novel in the fantasy series was an even bigger draw than the last "Lord of the Rings" movie, "The Return of the King." That film opened with \$72.6 million. "The Hobbit" is the first of another planned trilogy, with two more films to be squeezed out of Tolkien's book.

While Jackson's "Rings" movies drew many ac-



This publicity film image released by Warner Bros., shows Martin Freeman as Bilbo Baggins in a scene from the fantasy adventure "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

Associated Press

colades — "The Return of the King" won best picture from the Academy Awards — the path for "The Hobbit" has been rockier. It received no Golden Globes nominations on Thursday, though all three "Rings" films were nominated by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for best picture.

Particularly criticized has been the film's 48-frames-

per-second (double the usual rate), a hyper-detailed look that some have found jarring. Most moviegoers didn't see "The Hobbit" in that version, though, as the new technology was rolled out in only 461 of the 4,045 theaters playing the film.

Regardless of any misgivings over "The Hobbit," the film was a hit with audiences. They graded the film

with an "A" on CinemaScore.

"What's really important, what makes this special is the CinemaScore," said Dan Fellman, president of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. "All these things point to a great word of mouth. We haven't even made it to the Christmas holidays yet. Kids are still in school this week."

The strong opening culmi-

nated a long journey for "The Hobbit," which was initially delayed when a lawsuit dragged on between Jackson and "Rings" producer New Line Cinema over merchandising revenue. At one point, Guillermo del Toro was to direct the film with Jackson producing. But eventually the filmmaker opted to direct the movie himself, originally envisioning two "Hobbit" films. The production also went through the bankruptcy of distribution partner MGM and a labor dispute in New Zealand, where the film was shot. The long delay for "The Hobbit," nearly a decade after the last "Lord of the Rings" film, made it "one of those movies that had everyone scratching their heads as to how it would open," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "It's been a decade since the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy concluded," said Dergarabedian. "There's been so much anticipation for this film and having Peter Jackson back at the helm just made it irresistible both to fans and the non-initiated alike." □

Hollywood responds to deadly school shooting

NICOLE EVATT

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hollywood has responded to the rampage at a Connecticut elementary school by pulling back on its offerings, and one star says the entertainment industry should take some responsibility for such violence.

Jamie Foxx, one of the industry's biggest stars, said Saturday as he promoted Quentin Tarantino's upcoming ultra-violent spaghetti Western-style film about slavery, "Django Unchained," that actors can't ignore the fact that movie violence can influence people.

"We cannot turn our back and say that violence in films or anything that we do doesn't have a sort of influence," Foxx said in an interview on Saturday. "It



This undated publicity image released by The Weinstein Company shows, Christoph Waltz as Schultz, left, and Jamie Foxx as Django in the film, "Django Unchained," directed by Quentin Tarantino.

Associated Press

does."

In true Tarantino form, buckets of blood explode from characters as they are shot or shredded to pieces by rabid dogs in "Django Unchained."

Despite Friday's mass shooting, the press junket

for the movie, which opens in theaters Christmas Day, continued in New York as scheduled on Saturday.

Tarantino, whose credits include "Pulp Fiction" and the "Kill Bill" volumes, said he was tired of defending his films each time the U.S.

is shocked by gun violence. He said "tragedies happen" and blame should fall on those guilty of the crimes.

Foxx's co-star Kerry Washington said she believes the film's explicit brutality serves an important purpose in educating audiences about the atrocities of slavery.

"I do think that it's important when we have the opportunity to talk about violence and not just kind of have it as entertainment, but connect it to the wrongs, the injustices, the social ills," she said.

In the Newtown, Connecticut, massacre on Friday, a gunman killed his mother and then went to an elementary school, where he killed six adults and 20 children before committing suicide.

In response, premieres for Tom Cruise's new action movie, "Jack Reacher," in Pittsburgh and the family comedy "Parental Guidance" in Los Angeles were postponed.

Also, Fox pulled new episodes of "Family Guy" and "American Dad" that were to air Sunday to avoid potentially sensitive content. The originally scheduled episode of "Family Guy" had Peter telling his own version of the nativity story. The "American Dad" episode told the story of a demon that punished naughty children at Christmas. Both series plan to substitute reruns.

Fox also confirmed that a scheduled repeat of "The Cleveland Show" for Sunday was swapped for another rerun of that series out of the same concern. □

The loss of the innocents



Ross Douthat

© 2012 New York Times News Service

Newtown, Conn., is about 20 miles from the town where my wife grew up. It's the kind of place that rewards rambling New England drives: There are big old Victorian houses flanking the main street, a hill with a huge flagpole rising in the center of town and a large pasture just below, with shaded side roads radiating outward from the greensward, and then horse farms in the hills beyond.

When you live in a hectic, self-important city, it's easy to romanticize a town like Newtown, and maybe imagine escaping there someday, children in tow. The last time we drove through was more than a year ago: It was a summer dusk, and there were families out everywhere – kids on bikes, crowds around the ice cream stand, the images of small town innocence flickering past our car windows like slides on a carousel.

Any grown-up knows that such small-town innocence is illusory, and that what looks pristine to outsiders can be as darkened by suffering as any other place where human beings live together, and alone.

But even so, the illusion has real power, not least because the dream of small-town life makes the whole universe seem somehow kinder and homier. If only a Bedford Falls or Stars Hollow or Mayberry existed somewhere, we tend to feel – in New England or Nebraska, the present or the past – then perhaps there's some ultimate hope for the rest of us as well. Maybe the universe really was meant to be a home to humanity, and not just a blindly cruel cosmos in which a 6-year-old's fate is significant to his parents but no more meaningful in absolute terms than the cracking of a seashell or an extinction of a star.

But if the ideal of the Good Place, the lost Eden or Arcadia, can stir up the residue of religious hopes even in hardened materialists, the reality of what transpired in the real Newtown last week – the killing in cold blood of 20 small children – can make Ivan Karamazovs out of even the devout.

In Fyodor Dostoyevsky's famous novel, Ivan is the Karamazov brother who collects stories of children tortured, beaten, killed – babes caught on the points of soldiers' bayonets, a serf boy run down by his master's hounds, a child of 5 locked in a freezing

outhouse by her parents.

Ivan invokes these innocents in a speech that remains one of the most powerful rebukes to the idea of a loving, omniscient God – a speech that accepts the possibility that the Christian story of free will leading to suffering and then eventually redemption might be true, but rejects its Author anyway, on the grounds that the price of our freedom is too high.

"Can you understand," he asks his more religious sibling, "why a little creature, who can't even understand what's done to her, should beat her little aching heart with her tiny fist in the dark and the cold, and weep her meek unresentful tears to dear, kind God to protect her? ... Do you understand why this infamy must be and is permitted? Without it, I am told, man could not have existed on Earth, for he could not have known good and evil. Why should he know that diabolical good and evil when it costs so much?"

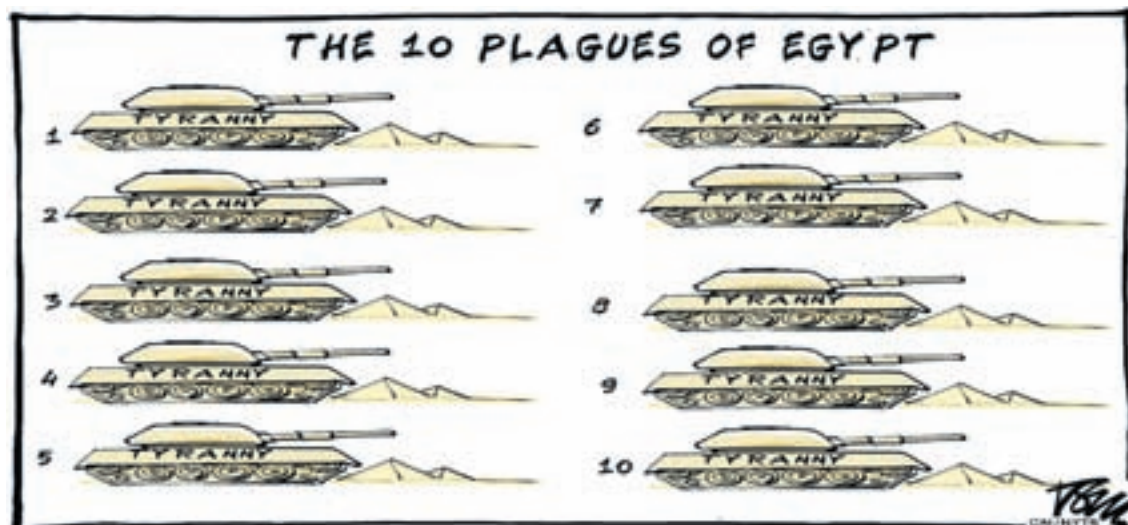
Perhaps, Ivan concedes, there will be some final harmony, in which every tear is wiped away and every human woe is revealed as insignificant against the glories of eternity. But such a reconciliation would be bought at "too high a price." Even the hope of heaven, he tells his brother, isn't worth "the tears of that one tortured child." It's telling that Dostoyevsky, himself a Christian, offered no direct theological rebuttal to his character's speech. The counterpoint to Ivan in "The Brothers Karamazov" is supplied by other characters' examples of Christian love transcending suffering, not by a rhetorical justification of God's goodness.

In this, the Russian novelist was being true to the spirit of the New Testament, which likewise seeks to establish God's goodness through a narrative rather than an argument, a revelation of his solidarity with human struggle rather than a philosophical proof of his benevolence.

In the same way, the only thing that my religious tradition has to offer to the bereaved of Newtown today – besides an appropriately respectful witness to their awful sorrow – is a version of that story, and the realism about suffering that it contains. That realism may be hard to see at Christmastime, when the sentimental side of faith owns the cultural stage. But the Christmas story isn't just the manger and the shepherds and the baby Jesus, meek and mild.

The rage of Herod is there as well, and the slaughtered innocents of Bethlehem, and the myrrh that prepares bodies for the grave. The cross looms behind the stable – the shadow of violence, agony and death.

In the leafless hills of western Connecticut, this is the only Christmas spirit that could possibly matter now. □



Do we have the courage to stop this?



Nicholas D. Kristof

© 2012 New York Times News Service

In the harrowing aftermath of the school shooting in Connecticut, one thought wells in my mind: Why can't we regulate guns as seriously as we do cars? The fundamental reason kids are dying in massacres like this one is not that we have lunatics or criminals – all countries have them – but that we suffer from a political failure to regulate guns. Children ages 5 to 14 in the United States are 13 times as likely to be killed with guns as children in other industrialized countries, according to David Hemenway, a public health specialist at Harvard who has written an excellent book on gun violence.

So let's treat firearms rationally as the center of a public health crisis that claims one life every 20 minutes. The U.S. realistically isn't going to ban guns, but we can take steps to reduce the carnage.

American schoolchildren are protected by building codes that govern stairways and windows. School buses must meet safety standards, and the bus drivers have to pass tests. Cafeteria food is regulated for safety. The only things we seem lax about are the things most likely to kill.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has five pages of regulations about ladders, while federal authorities shrug at serious curbs on firearms. Ladders kill around 300 Americans a year, and guns 30,000.

We even regulate toy guns, by requiring orange tips – but lawmakers don't have the gumption to stand up to National Rifle

Association extremists and regulate real guns as carefully as we do toys. What do we make of the contrast between heroic teachers who stand up to a gunman and craven, feckless politicians who won't stand up to the NRA?

As one of my Facebook followers wrote after I posted about the shooting, "It is more difficult to adopt a pet than it is to buy a gun."

Look, I grew up on an Oregon farm where guns were a part of life; and my dad gave me a .22 rifle for my 12th birthday. I understand: Shooting is fun! But so is driving, and we accept that we must wear seat belts, use headlights at night and fill out forms to buy a car. Why can't we be equally adult about regulating guns?

And don't say that it won't make a difference because crazies will always be able to get a gun. We're not going to eliminate gun deaths, any more than we have eliminated auto accidents. But if we could reduce gun deaths by one-third, that would be 10,000 lives saved annually.

Likewise, don't bother with the argument that if more people carried guns, they would deter shooters or interrupt them. Mass shooters typically kill themselves or are promptly caught, so it's hard to see what deterrence would be added by having more people pack heat. There have been few if any cases in the United States in which an ordinary citizen with a gun stopped a mass shooting.

The tragedy isn't one school shooting, it's the unceasing toll across our country. More Americans die in gun homicides and suicides in six months than have died in the last 25 years in every terrorist attack and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq combined.

So what can we do? A starting point would be to limit gun purchases to one a month, to curb gun traffickers. Likewise, we should restrict the sale of high-capacity magazines so that a shooter can't kill as many people without reloading.

We should impose a universal background check for gun buyers, even with private sales. Let's make serial numbers more dif-

ficult to erase, and back California in its effort to require that new handguns imprint a micro-stamp on each shell so that it can be traced back to a particular gun.

"We've endured too many of these tragedies in the past few years," President Barack Obama noted in a tearful statement on television. He's right, but the solution isn't just to mourn the victims – it's to change our policies. Let's see leadership on this issue, not just moving speeches.

Other countries offer a road map. In Australia in 1996, a mass killing of 35 people galvanized the nation's conservative prime minister to ban certain rapid-fire long guns. The "national firearms agreement," as it was known, led to the buyback of 650,000 guns and to tighter rules for licensing and safe storage of those remaining in public hands. The law did not end gun ownership in Australia. It reduced the number of firearms in private hands by one-fifth, and they were the kinds most likely to be used in mass shootings.

In the 18 years before the law, Australia suffered 13 mass shootings – but not one in the 14 years after the law took full effect. The murder rate with firearms has dropped by more than 40 percent, according to data compiled by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, and the suicide rate with firearms has dropped by more than half.

Or we can look north to Canada. It now requires a 28-day waiting period to buy a handgun, and it imposes a clever safeguard: Gun buyers should have the support of two people vouching for them.

For that matter, we can look for inspiration at our own history on auto safety. As with guns, some auto deaths are caused by people who break laws or behave irresponsibly. But we don't shrug and say, "Cars don't kill people, drunks do."

Instead, we have required seat belts, air bags, child seats and crash safety standards. We have introduced limited licenses for young drivers and tried to curb the use of mobile phones while driving. All this has reduced the U.S. traffic fatality rate per mile driven by nearly 90 percent since the 1950s. Some of you are alive today because of those auto safety regulations. And if we don't treat guns in the same serious way, some of you and some of your children will die because of our failure. □

Toys for Tots

Christmas
is the season
of sharing and giving.

As has been the custom of Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba since 2003, we are again collecting toys, books, clothing for boys and girls, non-perishable food, etc. for Casa Cuna Children's House, Imeldahof and The Food Bank of Aruba.

Let's make this a Merry and Joyful Christmas for everyone on our island, as it's an opportunity for us all to show solidarity and our love to others. You too can be part of this program by bringing your gift to our office located at the Weststraat #22 in Oranjestad.

Financial contributions are also possible.
Help us make this Christmas a very special one for our children and families all in Aruba.
Toys for Tots thanks each and everyone of you for helping us helping others.

THANK YOU!!

*Thank
You*